KENTUCKY BABE
(1896)

Words by RICHARD HENRY BUCK
Music by ADAM GEIBEL
Arrangement by KIRK ROOSE, rev. 11/2007

Verse
Skeet-ers are a-hummin' on the honey-suckle vine, sleep Ken-tuck-y

Babe!
Babe, Ken-tuck-y Babe!

Sand-man is a-comin' to this little child of mine,

sleep, Ken-tuck-y Babe!

Sil-v'ry moon is shin-in' in the

Babe, Ken-tuck-y Babe!

Original melody simplified. Original dialect lyrics modified.
heavens up above. Bob-o-link is pin-in' for his little lady love,

You are mighty lucky Babe of old Kentucky, close your eyes in

Chorus

fly away, fly away, fly away, fly away, fly away Kentucky Babe, fly away to rest, fly away, fly away, fly away, fly away, fly away, fly away,

lay your sleepy little head on your mother's breast.
Performance Notes

Adam Geibel, composer, organist, conductor, teacher, publisher ... was born near Frankfort-on-Main, Germany in 1855. He moved to the United States in 1862 and was educated at the Institute for the Blind in Pennsylvania. Some of his most famous songs are Kentucky Babe; Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus; Some Day He'll Make it Plain and Sleep. Richard Henry Buck, author ... was born in Philadelphia in 1870. Other than Kentucky Babe, Henry also wrote the lyrics to the well-known barbershop classics, Dear Old Girl and Where the Southern Roses Grow.

Sigmund Spaeth, on page 91 of his book "Barbershop Ballads and How to Sing Them" (Prentice Hall 1940): "When properly sung, Kentucky Babe is probably the most practical male quartet (piece) ever written." Barbershopper Kirk Roose is a well-known quartet singer, director and arranger. The Society has published some of his arrangements including Let the Rest of the World Go By and Railroad Rag. Roose is a champion for easy-to-sing arrangements. He has modified the lyrics in Kentucky Babe to be more compatible with today's world, giving us a fresh arrangement of this old chestnut.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask before you sing.