

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

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# The 21st Century

(A Girl Born in Afghanistan)

A setting of text from the Nobel Lecture by Peace Prize Laureate  
**Kofi Annan**

for unaccompanied mixed choir  
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

BURKE & BAGLEY

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# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## (A Girl Born in Afghanistan)

Adapted from the Nobel Lecture given by Kofi Annan  
in Oslo on December 10, 2001



Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies,  
Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, in Afghanistan, a girl will be born.  
Her mother will hold her and feed her,  
comfort her and care for her –  
just as any mother would anywhere in the world.  
In these basic acts of human nature, humanity knows no  
divisions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
We have entered the third millennium through a gate of fire.  
Awareness of the bonds that bind us all – in pain as in prosperity  
– has gripped young and old.

In the 21st Century we must look beyond States,  
we must look beneath the surface of nations.  
We must focus on improving the conditions of men and women.  
We must begin with the young Afghan girl.  
Saving that one life is to save humanity itself.

In this new century, we must start from understanding  
Peace must be made real and tangible in the daily lives of  
every man and woman.

Distinguished guests,  
The notion that what is ours must conflict with what is  
theirs is both false and dangerous.  
It has resulted in endless enmity and conflict.  
It has led men to commit great crimes in the name of a  
higher power.

It need not be so.  
We *can* love what we are, without hating what we are *not*,  
without hating *who* we are not.

Your Majesties, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
The girl born in Afghanistan today  
Is just one test of our humanity –  
But it is the only test that matters.

For unaccompanied mixed choir  
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

Duration: 7 minutes

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan was awarded the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. The text for this piece is adapted from his Nobel Lecture given on December 10, 2001. The lecture text is [Copyright © 2001 by The Nobel Foundation, Stockholm, 2001](http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html), and is used by permission. The complete text may be found at [www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html](http://www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html).

The premiere performance was given on February 8, 2003, by the William & Mary Choir under the direction of Dr. Constance DeFotis at the College of William & Mary's Charter Day celebration featuring Kofi Annan as guest speaker. The piece was selected as finalist in 2003 Briar Cliff University New Choral Music Competition. For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit [www.gregbartholomew.com](http://www.gregbartholomew.com).

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# The 21st Century (A Girl Born in Afghanistan)

Dedicated to Kay Bellor, Keith Axelsen and the International Rescue Committee

Text adapted from the Nobel Lecture by Kofi Annan

Greg Bartholomew

*♩ = 54 With great dignity*

*p*

Soprano  
Ah,

*p*

Alto  
Ah,

*mf*

Tenor  
Your ma - jes - ties, Your roy - al high - ness - es, Ex - cel - len - cies,

*p*

Bass  
Ah,

Piano  
for rehearsal only

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**A** *♩ = 60*

*mp*

S.  
Ah, La - dies and gen - tle - men,

*mp*

A.  
Ah, La - dies and gen - tle - men,

*mf*

T.  
Mem - bers of the Nor - we - gian No - bel Com - mit - tee, La - dies and gen - tle - men,

*mf*

B.  
Mem - bers of the Nor - we - gian No - bel Com - mi - tee, La - dies and gen - tle - men,

*♩ = 60*

Pno

7  $\text{♩} = 66$

S. *mp*  
To - day

A. *mf*  
To - day, To - day in Af - ghan - i - stan, a girl will be born.

T. *mp* *mf*  
To - day in Af - ghan - i - stan, a girl will be born.

B. *mp*  
To - day To - day

Pno  $\text{♩} = 66$

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11 **B**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

S. *pp*  
hold her and feed

A. *mp*  
Her mo - ther will hold her,

T. *pp*  
Her mo - ther will hold her and feed

B. *pp*  
Her Her mo - ther will hold and feed

Pno **B**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

16

S. her, will com - fort her, *pp* and care for her. *p* Just as

A. will com - fort her, *mf* and care for her. *mp* (melody) Just as an - y

T. her, will com - fort her, *pp* and care for her.

B. her, and com - fort her. *p* Just as

Pno

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21

S. an - y mo - ther would an - y where in the world. Ah

A. mo - ther would an - y - where in the world.

T. *mp* (melody) Just as an - y mo - ther would an - ywhere in the world.

B. an - y mo - ther would an - y where in the world.

Pno

28

S. *p* *mp* *p*  
 hu - man - i - ty\_\_\_ knows no di - vi - sions.

A. *p* *mp* *p*  
 Ah\_\_\_ hu - man - i - ty\_\_\_ knows no di - vi - sions.

T. *p* *mp* *p*  
 Ah\_\_\_ hu - man - i - ty\_\_\_ knows no di - vi - sions.

B. *mf* *mp* *p*  
 In these ba - sic acts of hu - man na - ture, hu - man - i - ty\_\_\_ knows no di - vi - sions.

Pno

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32 **C**  $\text{♩} = 54$  *mf*

S. *mf*  
 We have en - tered the third mil - len - i - um\_\_\_ through a gate of

A. *mf*  
 We have en - tered the third mil - len - i - um\_\_\_ through a gate of

T. *mp* *mf*  
 La - dies and gen - tle - men, We have en - tered the third mil - len - i - um\_\_\_ through a gate of

B. *mp* *mf*  
 La - dies and gen - tle - men, We have en - tered the third mil - len - i - um\_\_\_ through a gate of

**C**  $\text{♩} = 54$

Pno

35

S. fire. We have en - tered the third mil - len - i - um

A. fire. We have en - tered the third mil - len - i - um

T. fire. We have en - tered the third mil - len - i - um

B. fire. We have en - tered the third mil - len - i - um

Pno

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38

S. through a gate of fire. A - ware - ness of the bonds that bind us all

A. through a gate of fire. A - ware - ness of the bonds that bind us all

T. through a gate of fire. A - ware - ness of the bonds that bind us all

B. through a gate of fire. A - ware - ness of the bonds that bind us all

Pno

*f* *mp*  $\text{♩} = 72$

44

S. in pain \_\_\_\_\_ as in pros - per - i - ty \_\_\_\_\_ has gripped \_\_\_\_\_ young and old.

A. in pain \_\_\_\_\_ as in pros - per - i - ty \_\_\_\_\_ has gripped \_\_\_\_\_ young and old.

T. \_\_\_\_\_ in pain as in pros - per - i - ty \_\_\_\_\_ has gripped \_\_\_\_\_ young and old.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ in pain as in pros - per - i - ty \_\_\_\_\_ has gripped \_\_\_\_\_ young and old.

Pno

# Perusal Copy

50

**D**

S. *mf* In the Twen - ty First Cen - tu - ry, we must look be - yond States,

A. *mf* In the Twen - ty First Cen - tu - ry, we must look be - yond States,

T. *mf* In the Twen - ty First Cen - tu - ry, we must look be - yond States,

B. *mf* In the Twen - ty First Cen - tu - ry, we must look be - yond States,

**D**

Pno



53 *rit.*  $\text{♩} = 78$

S. we must look be - neath the sur - face of Na - tions. We must fo - cus

A. we must look be - neath the sur - face of Na - tions. We

T. we must look be - neath the sur - face of Na - tions.

B. we must look be - neath the sur - face of Na - tions.

Pno

Perusal Copy

58

S. on im - prov - ing con - di - tions of men and women.

A. must fo - cus on im - prov - ing con - di - tions of men and women.

T. We must fo - cus on im - prov - ing con - di - tions of men and women.

B. We must fo - cus on im - prov - ing con - di - tions of men and women.

Pno

63

S. We must be - gin with the young Af - ghan girl. Sav - ing that one life is to save hu - man - i - ty it - self.

A. We must be - gin with the young Af - ghan girl. Sav - ing that one life is to save hu - man - i - ty it - self.

T. We must be - gin with the young Af - ghan girl. Save one life.

B. We must be - gin with the young Af - ghan girl. Save that one life.

Pno

# Perusal Copy

68

**E**  $\text{♩} = 60$  *mf*

S. In this new cen - tu - ry, we must start from un - der stand - ing:—

A. *mf* In this new cen - tu - ry, we must start from un - der stand - ing:—

T. *mf* In this new cen - tu - ry, we must start from un - der stand - ing:—

B. *mf* In this new cen - tu - ry:—

**E**  $\text{♩} = 60$

Pno

SAB sing like bells ringing; T sustain and grow, driving forward

72

S. *p* Peace must be made real and tan-gi-ble.

A. *mp* Peace must be made real and tan-gi-ble in the dai-ly lives of ev'ry man and wo-man.

T. *mp* Peace must be made real.

B. *mp* Peace must be made real and tan-gi-ble in the dai-ly lives of ev'ry man and wo-man.

Pno

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77

**F** *mf* ♩ = 96

S. Dis-tin-guished guests. what is ours

A. *mf* Dis-tin-guished guests. what is ours

T. *mf* Dis-tin-guished guests. The no-tion that must con-flict with

B. *mf* Dis-tin-guished guests. The no-tion that must con-flict with

**F** ♩ = 96

Pno

82

S. what is theirs It has re - sult - ed in end - less en - mi -

A. what is theirs It has re - sult - ed in end - less en - mi -

T. is both false and dan - ger - ous.

B. is both false and dan - ger - ous.

Pno

# Perusal Copy

86

S. ty and con - flict. It has *detached*

A. ty and con - flict. It has *detached*

T. *detached* It has led men to com - mit great crimes,

B. *detached* It has led men to com - mit great crimes,

Pno

89

S. led men to com - mit great crimes in the name of a high - er pow'r.

A. led men to com - mit great crimes in the name of a high - er pow'r.

T. to com - mit great crimes in the name of a high - er pow'r

B. to com - mit great crimes in the name of a high - er pow'r.

Pno

Perusal Copy

93

S. It need not be so. We can

A. It need not be so. We can love

T. It need not be so. We can love

B. It need not be so. We can

Pno

98

S. love what we are with - out hat - ing what we are not,

A. what we are with - out hat - ing what we are not,

T. what we are with - out hat - ing what we are not,

B. love what we are with - out hat - ing what we are not,

Pno

Perusal Copy

104

S. with - out hat - ing who we are not. We can love.

A. with - out hat - ing who we are not. We can love.

T. with - out hat - ing who we are not. We can love.

B. with - out hat - ing who we are not. We can love.

Pno

110

S. *p* *f* *subito p* **H** *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*  
 We can love. Your ma-jes ties, Ex - cel - len - cies,

A. *mp* *f* *subito p* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*  
 We can love. Your ma jest ties, Ex - cel - len - cies,

T. *p* *f* *subito p* *mf* *mf* *mf*  
 We can love. Your ma-jes ties, Ex - cel - len - cies,

B. *p* *f* *subito p* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*  
 We can love. Your ma-jes ties, Ex - cel - len - cies,

Pno

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115

S. *mp*  
 La - dies and gen - tle - men, To - day

A. *mf*  
 La - dies and gen - tle - men, The girl born in Af - ghan - i - stan

T. *mf*  
 La - dies and gen - tle - men, The girl born in Af - ghan - i - stan

B. *mp*  
 La - dies and gen - tle - men: To - day,

Pno

119

S. *mp* *rallentando* *mf*  
 To - day \_\_\_\_\_ it is the on - ly test that mat - ters. \_

A. *mf*  
 is just one test of our hu - man - i - ty. But it is the on - ly test that mat - ters. \_

T. *mf*  
 is just one test of our hu - man - i - ty. But to -

B. *mp* *mf*  
 To - day \_\_\_\_\_ it is the on - ly test that mat - ters. \_

Pno

# Perusal Copy

123

S. *pp* *diminuendo a niente*  
 Mm. \_\_\_\_\_

A. *pp* *diminuendo a niente*  
 Mm. \_\_\_\_\_

T. *pp* *diminuendo a niente*  
 day, it is the on - ly test that mat - ters. \_

B. *pp* *diminuendo a niente*  
 Mm. \_\_\_\_\_

Pno