

GREG BARTHOLOMEW

A Girl Born
in Afghanistan

A setting of excerpts from the Nobel Peace Prize Lecture by
United Nations Secretary General

Kofi Annan

for unaccompanied mixed choir
with piano reduction for rehearsal only

BURKE & BAGLEY

A Girl Born in Afghanistan

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



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.

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.

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.

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

Duration: 4 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 with permission. The complete text may be found at www.nobel.se/peace/laureates/2001/annan-lecture.html.

A Girl Born in Afghanistan is an abridged version of *The 21st Century (A Girl Born in Afghanistan)*, which was premiered by the William & Mary Concert Choir on February 8, 2003, as an introduction to Annan's address at the College of William & Mary's Charter Day celebration. The abridged version, *A Girl Born in Afghanistan*, was premiered November 4, 2012, by the Hinsdale Chorale. A version for solo voice with piano and violin accompaniment was premiered April 6, 2013, in Little Rock, Arkansas, by tenor Michael Oriatti, accompanied by violinist Rachel Herman and pianist Sarah Fairbanks Weston.

For information about composer Greg Bartholomew, visit gregbartholomew.com.

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A Girl Born in Afghanistan

Text adapted from the Nobel Lecture by
Kofi Annan

Music by
Greg Bartholomew

♩ = 66

Soprano *mp*
To - day_____

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

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

Bass *mp*
To - day_____ To - day_____

Piano for rehearsal only *♩* = 66

5 **A** *♩* = *♩*

S. *pp*
hold her and feed

A. *mp* *pp*
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 **A** *♩* = *♩*

10

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

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

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

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

Pno

15

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

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

T. *mp* (melody) Just as an - y mo - ther would an - y where

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

Pno

21

S. *p* world. Ah *mp* hu - man - i - ty knows

A. *p* Ah *mp* hu - man - i - ty knows

T. *p* in the world. Ah *mp* hu - man - i - ty knows

B. *mf* world. In these ba - sic acts of hu man na ture, *mp* hu - man - i - ty knows

Pno

25

B ♩ = 96

S. *p* no di - vi - sions. We must fo - cus *mp* on

A. *p* no di - vi - sions. *mp* We must fo - cus on

T. *p* no di - vi - sions. *mf* We must fo - cus

B. *p* no di - vi - sions. *mf* We must fo - cus

B ♩ = 96

Pno

30 *mf*

S. — im - prov - ing con - di - tions of men and wo - men. We must be - gin

A. — im - prov - ing con - di - tions of men and wo - men. We must be - gin

T. 8 on im - prov - ing con - di - tions of men and wo - men. We must be - gin

B. on im - prov - ing con - di - tions of men and wo - men. We must be - gin

Pno

34 *mp* *p*

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

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

T. 8 with the young Af - ghan girl. Save one life.

B. with the young Af - ghan girl. Save that one life.

Pno