

There's a Meeting Here Tonight  
TTBB a cappella

TCT-CTS-001

Gibson, Hassilev, Yarbrough, arr. Cantus

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# THERE'S A MEETING HERE TONIGHT

TTBB a cappella

Bob Gibson, Alex Hassilev,  
and Glenn Yarbrough  
arr. Cantus

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■ Timothy C. Takach  
■ Publications ■

## Text:

There is a meeting here tonight!

Well there's a meeting here tonight,  
There's a meeting here tonight,  
I can tell by your friendly face  
there's a meeting here tonight.

Well I went down in the valley one day,  
met old Satan on my way.  
What do you reckon old Satan did say?  
He said, "Turn back, young man  
You're too young to pray."

Satan got mad and I am glad,  
Lost a soul he thought he had.  
Satan is a liar and a conjuror too,  
You better watch out brother he'll conjure you.

Well there's a meeting here tonight,  
There's a meeting here tonight,  
I can tell by your friendly face  
there's a meeting here tonight.

## Performance Note:

Although it's not notated, in places like m. 12, 16, 29 after the word "tonight," baritones and bass can fall of the higher pitch to the word "I" to further embrace the folk style of singing.



A recording of "There's a Meeting Here Tonight" can be found on the Cantus album "That Eternal Day," CTS-1210.

- Adam Reinwald, 2019

**Cantus is widely known** for its trademark warmth and blend, innovative programming and engaging performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. The Washington Post has hailed the Cantus sound as having both "exalting finesse" and "expressive power" and refers to the "spontaneous grace" of its music making. The Philadelphia Inquirer called the group nothing short of "exquisite."

Cantus performs more than 60 concerts each year both in national and international touring, and in its home of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. As one of the nation's few full-time vocal ensembles, Cantus has grown in prominence with its distinctive approach to creating music. Working without a conductor, the members of Cantus rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing to the entirety of the artistic process.

Committed to the expansion of the vocal music repertoire, Cantus actively commissions new music and seeks to unearth rarely performed repertoire for men's voices. The ensemble is heard frequently on both classical public radio nationwide and on SiriusXM Satellite Radio. Cantus has released 18 recordings on the group's self-titled label.

Integral to the Cantus mission is its commitment to preserve and deepen music education in the schools. Cantus works with more than 5,000 students each year in master class and workshop settings across the country.

## Note:

American Gospel folk singing duo Joe & Eddie (Joseph Gilbert and Eddie Brown) recorded and performed throughout the U.S. from the mid-1950s until Gilbert's untimely passing in 1966. With sparse instrumentation meant to highlight exquisitely interwoven vocal harmonies, Joe & Eddie's recordings of "Children, Go" and "Follow the Drinking Gourd" were in heavy rotation during long van rides on tours for the men of Cantus throughout the 2000s. Looking for a concert opener, Cantus found inspiration in Joe & Eddie's signature song, a tent revival tune "There's a Meeting Here Tonight." Taking much of the unison and two-part singing from Joe & Eddie's original recording as a guide, the group arrangement presented here focuses on letting the pace of the melody and the friendly invitation of the text shine, as opposed to a complex harmonic treatment.

The initial unison section should feel as though it blooms into full view with the addition of voice parts, and the contrast in dynamic throughout is immediately important for the feel of the piece. Even though the tune moves at a healthy clip, a certain smoothness and ease of delivery is necessary to bring the drama of the piece, found in and around unison sections, to bear. Tempo should not exceed that which a performance group can accomplish while maintaining that ease of sound and text delivery. It is recommended that a few trusted singers handle all snapping and clapping duties until the final chorus, and that each solo section be sung with full openness of sound and technique. Tenor lines moving above the staff should likewise be sung full voice, as able, and balanced equally with all parts to maintain the unanimity of melody to harmony that Joe & Eddie achieved in their original recording.

# There's a Meeting Here Tonight

for TTBB a cappella

**Brisk** ♩ = 104-110

1/4 choir finger snaps

Music by: Bob Gibson, Alex Hassilev, and Glenn Yarbrough  
arr. Cantus, ed. Reinwald & Takach

simile

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Tenor

Bass

*p* *mp* *mp*

There is a meet - in', - hm - mm, There is a meet - in', - hm - mm, There is a meet - in', hm -

There is a meet - in', - hm - mm, There is a meet - in', - hm - mm, There is a meet - in', hm -

4

T

B

*mf* *mf*

mm, There is a meet - in', - hm - mm, There is a meet - in' here tonight, There is a meet - in' here to-night,

mm, There is a meet - in', - hm - mm, There is a meet - in' here tonight, There is a meet - in' here to-night

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7

T

B

There is a meet - in' here to-night, There is a meet - in' here to - night!

There is a meet - in' here to-night, There is a meet - in' here to - night!

10

T

B

*f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Well there's a meet - in' here to night There's a

Well there's a meet in' here to - night, There's a



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There's a Meeting Here Tonight / arr. Cantus

12 *mf*

T meet-in' here to - night, I can tell by your friend - ly face there's a

B meet-in' here to - night I can tell by your friend - ly face there's a

14

T meet-in' here to night. Ha - le - lu - jah! There's a meet-in' here to - night, There's a

B meet-in' here to - night. There's a meet-in' here to - night, There's a

16

T meet-in' here to - night, I can tell by your friend - ly face there's a

B meet-in' here to - night, I can tell by your friend - ly face there's a

18 *f*

T meet-in' here to - night. Well I went down in the val - ley one day,

B meet-in' here to - night. Well I went down in the val - ley one day,

20 *p*

T (I went down in the val - ley one day) Met old Sa - tan on my way,

B (I went down in the val - ley one day) Met old Sa - tan on my way,

There's a Meeting Here Tonight / arr. Cantus

22 *p* *f*

T (Met old Sa - tan on my way) What do you reckon on old Sa - tan did say?

B (Met old Sa - tan on my way) What do you reckon on old Sa - tan did say?

24 *p* *f*

T (What do you reckon on old Sa - tan did say?) He said, "Turn back, young man you're too young to

B (What do you reckon on old Sa - tan did say?) He said, "Turn back, young man you're too young to

26 *solo f* *mf* *mf*

T pray, too young to pray, too young to pray." Well there's a

B pray, too young to pray, too young to pray." Well there's a

28

T meet - in' here, I know there's a meet-in' here to - night, 'Cause I can

T meet - in' here to - night, There's a meet-in' here to - night, I can

B meet - in' here to - night, There's a meet-in' here to - night, I can

There's a Meeting Here Tonight / arr. Cantus

30 1/4 choir hand claps

tell by your friend-ly face. Oh! There is a meet-in'. Oo...  
T tell by your friend-ly face there's a meet-in' here to-night. Oh! There is a meet-in',—  
B tell by your friend-ly face there's a meet-in' here to-night. Oh! There is a meet-in',— O

33 solo *f*

Let me tell you Lord.  
T Oo... meet-in' here to-night. There is a meet-in',— There is a meet-in' here to-night.  
B Lord. There is a meet-in', here to-night. Ha-le-lu-jah!

36

There is a meet-in',— Oo... Oo... meet-in' here to-night.  
T There is a meet-in',— There is a meet-in',— There is a meet-in' here to-night.  
B There is a meet-in',— Lord,— There is a meet-in',— There is a meet-in' here to-night.

39 solo *f*

That's right let me tell ev-ery-bo-dy that...  
T — There is a meet-in'— yes! There is a meet-in'— to -  
B There is a meet-in',— Lord,— There is a meet-in',—

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42

finger snaps

simile

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*mp* *mf*

T night, meet-in' here to - night Well there's a meet-in' here to - night, There's a

B There is a meet-in' here to - night, Well there's a meet-in' here to - night, There's a

45

T meet-in' here to - night, I can tell by your friend - ly face there's a meet-in' here to - night. Well

B meet-in' here to - night, I can tell by your friend - ly face there's a meet-in' here to - night.

48

*f* *p* (Sa - tan got mad and I — am gl - ad.)

T Sa - tan got mad and I — am gl - ad. Oo... (Sa - tan got mad and I — am gl - ad.)

B Oo... (Sa - tan got mad and I — am gl - ad.)

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50

*solo f* *mf*

(Lost a soul he thought — he had.) Whoa...

T *f* *p* (Lost a soul he thought — he had.)

B *f* *p* (Lost a soul — he thought — he had.)

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52 *f* Oo... *p* (Sa-tan is a li-ar and a con-jur-or too,) *mf* You bet-ter

Sa-tan is a li-ar and a con-jur-or too, (Sa-tan is a li-ar and a con-jur-or too,) *mf* You bet-ter

Oo... (Sa-tan is a li-ar and a con-jur-or too,) You bet-ter

54

watch out, bro-ther he'll con-jure you, con-jure you, con-jure

watch out, bro-ther he'll con-jure you, con-jure you, con-jure

56 *solo f*

Well, there's a meet-in' here— There is a

you. Well, there's a meet-in' here to-night, There's a

you. Well, there's a meet-in' here to-night, There's a

58

meet-in' here, 'Cause I can tell by your friend-ly

meet-in' here to-night, I can tell by your friend-ly face— there's a

meet-in' here to-night, I can tell by your friend-ly face— there's a



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60

finger snaps  
become hand claps

face sure 'nough there is a meet - in' here!

meet - in' here — to - night. Oh! There is a meet - in', — Oo...

meet - in' here — to - night. Oh! There is a meet - in', — O

62

Oo... — meet - in' here to - night.

There is a meet - in', — There is a meet - in' here to - night.

Lord, There is a meet - in' here to - night.

64

*solo* *f* Ha - le - lu - jah!

Ha - le - lu - jah! There is a meet - in', — Oo... Oo...

Ha - le - lu - jah! There is a meet - in', — There is a meet - in', —

Ha - le - lu - jah! There is a meet - in' — Lord, — There is a meet - in', —

67

*solo* *f* lower notes opt.

meet - in' here to - night. — Won't you light a lit - tle can -

There is a meet - in' here to - night. —

There is a meet - in' here to - night. —

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69

hand claps

- dle now...

T There is a meet - in' Lord, There is a meet - in',

B There is a meet - in' Lord, There is a meet - in',

71

T There is a meet - in' here to - night.

B There is a meet - in' here to - night.

73

T There is a meet - in' here to - night!

B There is a meet - in' here to - night!

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