

JUDITH SHATIN

The Best Angel in Heaven

Unison Treble Choir & Piano



Program Notes: *The Best Angel in Heaven*

I composed *The Best Angel in Heaven*, for unison chorus or soloist and piano in the cruel month of April, 2020, in memory of Sandra Santos-Vizcaino, the wonderful third-grade teacher at PS 9 in Brooklyn, NY who passed away from Covid-19. I did so because I was so touched by the memory page devoted to her, marked by the love and sadness of so many whose lives she touched. She was clearly not only a great teacher, but a woman of extraordinary character, kindness and compassion. I wish I could have known her. I have based the lyrics on phrases drawn from these memories of love for her and of distress at losing so dear a person. –JS

Lyrics

You are my fav'rite teacher.
You will stay with me forever.
I will always love and miss you.
I will love you no matter what,
no matter what.

You are the kindest, smartest, funniest,
You are the best teacher ever.
You are the best angel in Heaven,
Angel in Heaven.

You loved us all equally,
We were part of your family.
We miss your warm hugs,
We miss your sweet treats.

You will always be in my heart.
It is the hardest loss,
The hardest loss.

You were always a hugger,
You were like our owl.
Always a leader,
Always smiling,
You were like our own Athena, Athena.

You are safe in star clan now.
You are safe in star clan.

You are the best angel in Heaven,
in Heaven, in Heaven.

The Best Angel in Heaven

Lyrics by Judith Shatin
Based on memories of students & colleagues
of Sandra Santos-Vizcaino

Judith Shatin

♩ = 72

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano in 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 72. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (1, 4, 8, 11) at the beginning of the vocal line. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. A large diagonal watermark reading 'PERFORMANCE SCORE - NOT FOR TOP PERFORMANCES' is overlaid on the score.

System 1: Measure 1. Soprano: *mf* You are my fav' - rite

System 2: Measure 4. Soprano: teach - er. You will stay with me for - ev er. I will al - ways

System 3: Measure 8. Soprano: love and miss you. I will love you no mat - ter what,

System 4: Measure 11. Soprano: *mp* no mat - ter what! *mf* You are the kind - est, smart - est, fun - ni - est,

14

You are the best teach-er e - ver. You are the best an - gel in Heav - en.

sim.

18

an - gel in heav - en. You loved us all e - qual - ly,

22

We were part of your fam - i - ly, We miss your warm hugs, we miss your sweet treats.

sim.

26

You will al - ways be in my heart. It is the hard - est loss,

f *mf*

30

hard - est loss. You were al - ways a hug - ger.

mp *p* *mf* *mf*

34

You were like our owl. Always a leader, Always smiling

38

You were like our own A - the - na, A - the - na. You are safe in

42

star - clan now, You are safe in star -

45

clan You are the best an - gel in

48

heav - en, in heav - en, in heav - en.