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## Angels of Mercy

Irving Berlin

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*Mrs. J. W. Beal  
2/19/1918*

# ANGELS OF MERCY

WRITTEN EXPRESSLY FOR AND DEDICATED TO

*American Red Cross*

By

IRVING BERLIN

AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, PUBLISHER

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# ANGELS OF MERCY

Angels of Mercy  
There's so much to do  
The heavens are gray overhead  
Angels of Mercy  
They're calling to you  
So march with your crosses of red  
March where the darkness  
Shuts out the light  
March where there is no dawn  
Angels of Mercy  
The world's covered with night  
But your mercy goes marching on  
Angels of Mercy  
Through darkest night  
Your mercy goes marching on.

*Irving Berlin*

AN - GELS OF MER - CY the world's cov - ered with night, But

The first system of music features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and contains the lyrics "AN - GELS OF MER - CY the world's cov - ered with night, But". A triplet of eighth notes is marked above the final three notes of the first phrase. The piano accompaniment includes a right-hand part with chords and a left-hand part with a steady bass line.

your mer - cy goes march - ing on \_\_\_\_\_ AN - GELS OF

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has the lyrics "your mer - cy goes march - ing on \_\_\_\_\_ AN - GELS OF". A triplet of eighth notes is marked above the first three notes of the phrase. The piano accompaniment continues with similar harmonic support.

MER - CY thru dark - est night 8: Your mer - cy goes

The third system features the vocal line with lyrics "MER - CY thru dark - est night 8: Your mer - cy goes". An 8-measure rest is indicated above the vocal line. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

march - ing on. \_\_\_\_\_ on. \_\_\_\_\_

The fourth system shows the vocal line with lyrics "march - ing on. \_\_\_\_\_ on. \_\_\_\_\_". It includes first and second endings, marked "1." and "2." above the vocal staff. The piano accompaniment concludes the piece with sustained chords.

# *The Birth of the Red Cross*

Humane treatment of the battle wounded is accepted today as a matter of course. Many of us do not realize that three-quarters of a century gaps the change from sheer barbarism on the battlefield to the protection now granted by the Red Cross flag.

## FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Not until the Crimean War in 1854, did the noble Englishwoman, Florence Nightingale, shake world complacency. Following an exposure in the press of the intolerable conditions of the wounded, Miss Nightingale and thirty-eight nurses left London for the front. There she established a hospital under sanitary conditions. Because of her work in establishing nursing standards, she became the nurse heroine of the world.

## HENRI DUNANT

It remained, however, for Henri Dunant, a Swiss idealist, to give to the world the idea which today binds together societies of sixty-three nations under one banner. Although he received one-half of the first Nobel peace award, there exists no monument in stone to his memory.

No grave marks his resting place, because his ashes were scattered to the winds in Zurich, following his death in Switzerland on October 30, 1910 in the eighty-second year of his life.

But every Red Cross flag—the white flag with the brilliant red cross emblazoned upon it—that flies throughout the world, is a symbol in recognition of Dunant's memory, because in his honor the flag of his native Switzerland, red, with white cross, was reversed to make the flag of the International Red Cross.

It was in June, 1859, while traveling through Lombardy, that the young Swiss came within the region of the collision between the Austrian and the Franco-Sardinian forces. The battle occurred on the hill of Solferino, south of Lake Garda.

Returning to his home in Geneva, Dunant later wrote his impression of those terrible weeks, and in conclusion urged the formation of voluntary societies, whose aim should be to succor the wounded in time of war, and to give aid in epidemics or national disasters in time of peace.

So, in 1862 were first outlined the principles and purposes found today in the articles of the various Red Cross societies of the world.

In August, 1864 an International Conference was called in which thirteen European nations and the United States were represented, but the latter unofficially. This conference drew up the famous articles now known as the Red Cross Treaty of Geneva.

## CLARA BARTON

Clara Barton, a former school teacher from New England, America's first woman Government clerk in Washington, during the Civil War volunteered to work among the war wounded. She was the next person to work actively to bring the Red Cross principles into use by the United States Government.

Her interest had been enlisted while on a visit to Switzerland in 1869. Friends of Dunant gave her a commission to urge the United States to accept the Red Cross treaty.

The first encouragement came in the administration of President Garfield, when his Secretary of State, James G. Blaine, wrote on May 21, 1881, that he would recommend adherence.

On that night fifty friends of Miss Barton met at her home in Washington and organized "The Association of the American Red Cross", electing her as president.

President Garfield's tragic death from an assassin's bullet prevented recognition of the Red Cross by the Government. In his message to the Congress, his successor, President Arthur, recommended that the United States adhere to the Treaty of Geneva. This action came on March 1, 1882, when the President, with the consent of the Senate placed his signature on the International agreement.

Miss Barton remained as president of the Association of the Red Cross until its reorganization in 1905 under a new Congressional Charter. Today there are 3700 Red Cross Chapters with 8,000 branches throughout the Nation.