

Vocal Score

JS 016

8 minutes, 15 seconds

Your children (are not your children)

for SATB Choir and Four-Hands Piano

Text by
Khalil Gibran

Music by
Joshua Shank

B&F Music
Joshua Shank

Note from the composer

In the early stages of writing this piece I concluded that the simpler I kept the music, the closer it would be to the intention of Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran's amazing text about the stewardship of raising a child. In the writing I attempted to represent this by taking a melodic idea and "growing" it one note at a time until it became the entire line of text; slow, repetitive development that eventually yields what is hopefully something beautiful. Not a bad metaphor for parenthood, I think.

Your children (are not your children) was co-commissioned by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota and the Minnesota Music Educators Association for the 2010 Minnesota All-State Mixed Choir. It was originally scored for two four-hands pianos but I adapted it so the piece can be performed with only one piano. It is dedicated with love and gratitude to Dr. Angela Broeker.

The Text

On Children

By Khalil Gibran (1883-1931)

Your children are not your children.
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.
They come through you but not from you,
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,
For they have their own thoughts.
You may house their bodies but not their souls,
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,
which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.
You may strive to be like them,
but seek not to make them like you.
For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday.

(Adapted by the composer)

Co-commissioned for the Minnesota All-State Mixed Choir as a special project in the year 2010 by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota and the Minnesota Music Educators Association

Your children (are not your children)

for Dr. Angela Broeker

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Softly (♩ = ca. 76)

Soprano
Your chil - dren are not your chil - - - dren.

Alto
Your chil - dren are not your chil - dren.

Tenor
Your chil dren are not your chil - - - dren.

Bass
Your chil - dren are not your chil - - - dren.

9 Always moving forward (♩ = ca. 135)

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Your chil - dren are not your chil - dren

Your chil-dren are not your chil - dren Your chil-dren are not your chil - dren Your chil -

Your chil - dren are not your chil - dren Your chil-dren are not

Your chil-dren are not your chil - dren Your chil-dren are not your chil - dren

Your chil - dren are not your chil - dren Your chil - dren Your chil-dren are not
 dren are not your chil - dren Your chil - dren are not your chil - dren Your chil-dren are not
 your chil - dren Your chil-dren are not your chil - dren Your chil-dren are not
 Your chil-dren are not your chil - dren Your chil-dren are not your chil-dren Your chil-dren are not

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your chil - dren
 your chil - dren
 your chil - dren
 your chil - dren dren They are the
 They are the

(3+3+2+2) They are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing sons and daugh-ters of Life's
 sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing They are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's
 They are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing sons and daugh-ters of Life's
 sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing They are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's

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35

long-ing for it - self. _____

long-ing for it - self. _____

long-ing for it - self. _____

long-ing for it - self. _____

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44

mf

T you from you not from you but not from you you

mf

B you from you not from you but not from you you

53

but not from you through you but not from you

but not from you through you but not from you

57

sub. f

come through you but not from you They come through you

sub. f

come through you but not from you They come through you

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62

but not from you They come through you but not from you

but not from you They come through you but not from you

69

4 6 4

4 6 4

87

86 *f no vibrato*

They come through you but not from you. They are with you yet they be-long not to you,

f no vibrato

They come through you but not from you. They are with you yet they be-long not to you,

97

92

they be-long not to you, they be-long not to you, they be-long not to you.

they be-long not to you, they be-long not to you, they be-long not to you.

101

98 *mp*

S You, You may, You may house You may house their,

mp

A You, You may, You may house You may house their,

107

You may house their bo - dies You may house their bo - dies but You may

You may house their bo - dies You may house their bo - dies but

116

house their bo - dies but not but not You may house their bo - dies but

mp

but not

124 *mf*
 not their You may house their bo dies but not their souls.
mf
 You may house their bo - dies but not their souls.

136

133 *mf no vibrato*
 For their souls dwell, their souls dwell in the house of to -
mf no vibrato
 For their souls dwell their souls dwell in the house of to -

142
 mor - - - row which you can - not vis-it, you can - not vis-it, not e - ven in your
 mor - - - row which you can - not vis-it, you can - not vis-it, not e - ven in your

152

S *f* dreams. *mp* You may give, You may
 A *f* dreams. *mp* You may give,
 T *mp* You may give, You
 B *mp* You may give, You

give them, _____ You may give them your, _____ You
 You may give them, _____ You may give them your, _____ You
 may give them, _____ You may give them your, _____ You
 may give them, _____ You may give them your, _____ You

bring out - - - - -

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may give them your love, _____ But
 may give them your love, _____ But
 may give them your love, _____ But
 may give them your love, _____ But

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not your thoughts, but not your thoughts. You may give them your love but
 not your thoughts, but not your thoughts. You may give them your love but
 not your thoughts, but not your thoughts. You may give them your love but
 not your thoughts, but not your thoughts. You may give them your love but

194 A quiet revelation (♩ = ca. 80)

190

not — your thoughts, your thoughts, For they

not — your thoughts, your thoughts, For they

not — your thoughts, your thoughts,

not — your thoughts, your thoughts,

rit. *mp*

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199 A little more motion (♩ = ca. 90)

195

have their own thoughts. They have their own thoughts You may strive to be — like —

have their own thoughts. They have their own thoughts. You may strive to be — like

They have their own thoughts. You may strive to be — like

They have their own thoughts. You may strive to be — like

mf warmly *mp*

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201

them but seek not — to — make them like

them but seek not to make them like

them but seek not to make them like

them but seek not — to make them like

209 Heading towards the end (♩ = ca. 104)

207 *rit.* **14** *mf*

you. _____ For life goes not

you. _____ For life goes not

you. _____ For life goes not

you. _____ For life goes not

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227

back-ward _____ nor tar - ries with yes - ter - day.

back-ward _____ nor tar - ries with yes - ter - day.

back-ward _____ nor tar - ries with yes - ter - day.

back-ward _____ nor tar - ries with yes - ter - day.

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235

Your child - dren are not your chil - dren

Your child - dren are not your chil - dren

Your chil - dren are not your chil - dren

Your chil - dren are not your chil - dren

sub. f

they are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing _____ for it-

sub. f

they are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing _____ for it-

sub. f

they are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing _____ for it-

sub. f

they are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing _____ for it-

251

f

self. _____

f

self. _____

f

self. _____

f

self. _____

ff

oh _____

ff

oh _____

ff

oh _____

ff

oh _____

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