

Piano

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)

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“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

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 Broecker

Text by
Khalil Gibran

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9 Always moving forward
(♩ = ca. 135)

Primo

Secondo

20

15^{va}

f 8^{va}

20

f 8^{vb}

25

Musical score for measures 25-28. The score is in 3/8 time and B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with chords in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is overlaid on the score.

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29

Musical score for measures 29-31. The score is in 3/8 time and B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with chords in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is overlaid on the score.

32

(3+3+2+2)

Musical score for measures 32-35. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. It features a piano accompaniment with chords in the right hand and a melodic line in the left hand. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is overlaid on the score.

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

35

35

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41

41

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49

49

"This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

56

56

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60

mf *loco*

60

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69

65

f *p una corda*

65

Musical score for measures 72-79. The score is for piano and includes a watermark: "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

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Musical score for measures 80-86. The score is for piano and includes a watermark: "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

87

Musical score for measures 86-93. The score is for piano and includes a watermark: "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..."

(3+3+2)

97

92

Musical score for measures 92-97. The score is for piano and includes a watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...". The notation shows a sequence of chords and melodic lines in the right and left hands. Measure 92 starts with a (3+3+2) fingering. Measures 93-95 feature a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. Measure 96 has a dynamic marking of *mp* and a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. Measure 97 continues the melodic line in the right hand.

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98

Musical score for measures 98-102. The score is for piano and includes a watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...". The notation shows a sequence of chords and melodic lines in the right and left hands. Measure 98 starts with a dynamic marking of *mp*. Measures 99-101 feature a continuous melodic line in the right hand and a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. Measure 102 concludes the sequence.

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103

Musical score for measures 103-107. The score is for piano and includes a watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...". The notation shows a sequence of chords and melodic lines in the right and left hands. Measure 103 starts with a dynamic marking of *mp*. Measures 104-106 feature a continuous melodic line in the right hand and a rhythmic accompaniment in the left hand. Measure 107 concludes the sequence.

109 *15^{va}*

109

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115

115

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

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121

121

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

127

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

127

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

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136

132

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

132

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

mp

137

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137

“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

143

Musical score for measures 143-146. The score is in B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. It features a complex piano accompaniment with multiple voices in both hands. The right hand has a melodic line with grace notes and slurs, while the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final chord marked with a fermata.

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147

Musical score for measures 147-150. The score continues from the previous system. It features a complex piano accompaniment with multiple voices in both hands. The right hand has a melodic line with grace notes and slurs, while the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final chord marked with a fermata.

151

152

Musical score for measures 151-154. The score begins with a box containing the number 152. The key signature changes to B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature changes to 3/4. The piece starts with a piano introduction marked *mp* and *8va*. The right hand has a melodic line with grace notes and slurs, while the left hand has a rhythmic accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final chord marked with a fermata and *mf*.

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let vibrate

157

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

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mf let vibrate

165

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

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mf let vibrate

173

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

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mf let vibrate

181

let *vibrate*

185

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194 A quiet revelation
(♩ = ca. 80)

189

p rit.

199 A little more motion (♩ = ca. 90)

195

195

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201

201

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

207

207

mp

with pedal

bring out

212

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

212

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R.H.
L.H.

216

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

220

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220

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

224

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

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228 *15^{va}*

sub. ff *8^{va}* *f*

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

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232

ff

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

236

loco

Musical notation for measures 236-240. The treble clef part features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The bass clef part provides harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is visible across the page.

236

Musical notation for measures 236-240, bass clef part. It shows the lower register accompaniment with chords and melodic fragments. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is visible across the page.

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241

8va

Musical notation for measures 241-245. The treble clef part has an *8va* marking. The bass clef part continues the accompaniment. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is visible across the page.

241

Musical notation for measures 241-245, bass clef part. It shows the lower register accompaniment with chords and melodic fragments. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is visible across the page.

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247

8va

loco

Musical notation for measures 247-251. The treble clef part has an *8va* marking. The bass clef part has a *loco* marking. A tempo marking $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ is present. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is visible across the page.

247

8vb

Musical notation for measures 247-251, bass clef part. It shows the lower register accompaniment with chords and melodic fragments. A watermark "This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3..." is visible across the page.

253

15^{va}

8^{va}

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

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257

8^{va}

loco

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...

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263

This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...