

Full 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 tarries 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 Broecker

Text by
Khalil Gibran

Music by
Joshua Shank

Softly (♩ = ca. 76)

mp

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

mp

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

mp

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

mp

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

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

9

Always moving forward (♩ = ca. 135)

mf

Your chil - dren are not your chil - dren

mf

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

mf

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

mf

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

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

14

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

19

your chil - dren

your chil - dren

your chil - dren

your chil - dren

19

Primo:

15^{va}

8^{va}

Secondo:

8^{vb}

24

24

28

S

A

T

B

f

They are the

f

They are the

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Joshua Shank

28

28

32

(3+3+2+2)

(3+3+2)

f

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

f

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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Joshua Shank

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

35

38

long-ing for it - self. _____

Tacet

long-ing for it - self. _____

Tacet

long-ing for it - self. _____

long-ing for it - self. _____

8

long-ing for it - self. _____

35

8^{va}

mp

8^{va}

35

8^{vb}

mp

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

41 *mf*

T 8

you from you not from you

B *mf*

you from you not from you

41

41

41

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49

8

but not from you you but not from you through you

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Joshua Shank

49

49

49

49

56

8 but not from you come through you but — not from you

56

56

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60

8 *sub. f* They come through you but not from you

60

8 *sub. f* They come through you but not from you

60

mf *loco*

60

mf *f*

65 69 Tacet

T *f* They come through you but not from you

B *f* They come through you but not from you

65

f Tacet

65

f Tacet

p una corda

72

f

p

80

f

p

tres corda

87

86 *f no vibrato*

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

B *f no vibrato*

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

86 *f* *mf* *8va*

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

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(3+3+2)

97

92 *Tacet*

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

Tacet

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

92 *mp 8va*

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

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101

98

S *mp* You, You may,

A *mp* You, You may,

98

98

pp

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

103

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

103

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

103

103

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

109

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

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

109 15^{va}

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

109

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115

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

but not ____

but not ____

115

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

115

pp

121

mf

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

mf

You may

121

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

121

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mf

127

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

house their bo - - - dies but not_ their_

house their bo - - - dies but not_ their_

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127

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

127

132

mf no vibrato

souls. _____ For their souls

mf no vibrato

souls. _____ For their souls

132

132

mp

137

dwel, their souls dwell in the house of to - mor - - -

dwel their souls dwell in the house of to - mor - - -

137

137

143

row which you can - - - not vis - it, — you can - not

row which you can - - - not vis - it, — you can - not

143

143

vis - it, — not e - - - ven in your dreams. —

vis - it, — not e - - - ven in your dreams. —

147

147

147

f

f

f

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Joshua Shank

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

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

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

152

151

S *mp* You may

A

T *mp* You may give, _____

B *mp* You

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

151

15^{va}

mp

mf

mp

mf

mf let vibrate

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

157

give, _____ You may give them, _____

mp

You may give, _____ You may

8 _____ You may give

may give, _____ You may give

157

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157

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Joshua Shank

mf let vibrate

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

165

You may give them your, _____

give them, _____ You may give them your, _____

8 them, _____ You may give

bring out -----

them, _____ You may give

165

165

mf let vibrate

181 *mf*

But *mf*

But *mf*

But *mf*

But *mf*

But

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

181

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Tacet

181

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Joshua Shank

let vibrate

Tacet

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

not ___ your ___ thoughts, but not ___ your ___ thoughts. You may

not ___ your ___ thoughts, but not ___ your ___ thoughts. You may

not ___ your ___ thoughts, but not ___ your ___ thoughts. You may

not ___ your ___ thoughts, but not ___ your ___ thoughts. You may

185

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185

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

194 A quiet revelation (♩ = ca. 80)

189

mp

give them your love but not your thoughts, your thoughts, For they

mp

give them your love but not your thoughts, your thoughts, For they

give them your love but not your thoughts, your thoughts,

give them your love but not your thoughts, your thoughts,

189

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p rit. *Tacet*

199 A little more motion (♩ = ca. 90)

195

mf warmly *mp*

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

mf warmly *mp*

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

mf warmly *mp*

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

mf warmly *mp*

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

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. you. — *Tacet*

rit. you. — *Tacet*

rit. you. — *Tacet*

rit. you. — *Tacet*

207

mp *bring out*

with pedal

207

207

212

212

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

216

R.H.

L.H.

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216

pp

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220

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

220

224 *mf*

S For _____ life _____ goes not back - ward _____

A *mf*

A For _____ life _____ goes not back - ward _____

T *mf*

T For _____ life _____ goes not back - ward _____

B *mf*

B For _____ life _____ goes not back - ward _____

224

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224

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

228

nor tar - ries

nor tar - ries

nor tar - ries

nor tar - ries

228

15^{va}

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

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228

sub. **ff** **f**

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

232

with _____ yes - ter - - - day. _____

with _____ yes - ter - - - day. _____

8 with _____ yes - ter - - - day. _____

with _____ yes - ter - - - day. _____

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

232

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ff

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

ff

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Joshua Shank

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

236

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

236

loco
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236

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

241 *sub. f*

they are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing ____

sub. f

they are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing ____

sub. f

they are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing ____

sub. f

they are the sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing ____

241

8va

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241

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

257

ff

oh

ff

oh

ff

oh

ff

oh

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

257

ff

8^{va}

loco

ff

8^{vb}

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

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

263

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

263

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

263

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Minneapolis, April 2010
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