

Full Score

JS 020

8 minutes, 15 seconds

# Your children (are not your children)

*for TTBB 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 Dr. Angela Broeker and 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. The tenor-bass version was commissioned in 2013 by the Boston Gay Men's Chorus (Reuben M. Reynolds III, conductor).

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**Joshua Shank**

## 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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**Joshua Shank**

“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; TTBB version commissioned by the Boston Gay Men's Chorus (Reuben M. Reynolds III, conductor)

# Your children (are not your children)

Text by  
Khalil Gibran

Music by  
Joshua Shank

Softly (♩ = ca. 76)

*mp*

Tenor 1  
Your chil - dren are not your chil - - - dren.

Tenor 2  
Your chil - dren are not your chil - - - dren.

Bass 1  
Your chil - dren are not your chil - - - dren.

Bass 2  
Your chil - dren are not your chil - - - dren.

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

*mf*

Your chil-dren are not your chil - dren 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 -



24

24

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28

28

*f*  
They are the

*f*

They are the

28

28

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32

(3+3+2+2

*f*

”

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

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

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

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

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32

32

32

”

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

34 (3+3+2)

sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing for it - self.

sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing for it - self.

sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing for it-self.

sons and daugh-ters of Life's long-ing for it-self.

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34

mp gva -

gva -

mp

gvb

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39

*mf* you from you

*mf* you from you

*mf* you from you

*mf* you from you

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39

39

39

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

47

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

not from you but not from you you but — not from you through you

47

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56

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

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

56

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56

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

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

The first system of music features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 60 with a rest, then enters with the lyrics "They come through you but not from you" in a half note, followed by "They come through you" in a half note. The piano accompaniment consists of eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *sub. f* and *f*. There are accents over the notes.

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

60 *mf* *loco* *f*

The second system of music is for the piano accompaniment. It features a right hand with eighth notes and a left hand with chords. Dynamics include *mf*, *loco*, and *f*. There are accents over the notes. A watermark "B&F Music Joshua Shank" is visible over the piano part.

69 Tacet Tacet

66 but not from you Tacet

The third system of music features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 66 with the lyrics "but not from you" in a half note. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth notes in the right hand and chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. There are accents over the notes. A watermark "B&F Music Joshua Shank" is visible over the piano part.

66 but not from you Tacet

66 *p una corda*

The fourth system of music is for the piano accompaniment. It features a right hand with eighth notes and a left hand with chords. Dynamics include *p una corda*. There are accents over the notes.

72

Secondo:

80

*tres corda*

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87

Tenor:

*f no vibrato*

Bass:

*f no vibrato*

Primò:

*8va*

*f*

*mf*

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Secondo:

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

(3+3+2)

91

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

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

91

*mp* 8<sup>va</sup>

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98 Tenor 1:

*mp*

You, You may,

Tenor 2:

*mp*

You, You may,

98

*pp*

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103

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

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

103

103

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109

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

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

109

15<sup>va</sup>

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109

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

115 *mp*  
You may house their bo - - - dies but not — but not —  
but not — *mp*

115  
*pp*  
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121 *mf*  
You may house their bo - - - dies but not — their You may  
You may *mf*  
You may

121  
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*mf*

127  
house their bo - - - dies but not \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_

house their bo - - - dies but not \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_

127  
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127

132 Tenor: *f* souls. \_\_\_\_\_ For their souls  
*mf no vibrato*

Bass: \_\_\_\_\_ For their souls  
*mf no vibrato*

132  
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132  
*mp*

137  
 T  
 8 dwell, their souls dwell in the house of to mor - - -  
 B  
 dwell, their souls dwell in the house of to - mor - - -

137  
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143  
 8 row which you can - - - not vis - it, — you can - not  
 row which you can - - not vis - it, — you can - not

143  
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147  
8  
vis - it, — not e - - - ven in your dreams. —  
vis - it, — not e - ven in your dreams. —

147  
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f

152

151  
8  
You  
mp  
You may  
mp  
You may give, —  
mp  
You may give, —

151  
15va  
mp  
8va  
mf  
mp

mf *let vibrate*

158 *mp*

may give, \_\_\_\_\_ You may give

give, \_\_\_\_\_ You may give them, \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* You may give them, \_\_\_\_\_

*mp* You may give them, \_\_\_\_\_

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158

*mf* let vibrate

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

166 *mp* bring out -----  
them, \_\_\_\_\_ You may give them  
*mp* You may give them your, \_\_\_\_\_  
*mp* You may give them your, \_\_\_\_\_  
*mp* You may give them

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166  
166  
*mf* let vibrate

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**Joshua Shank**

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



182 *f*robust

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

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

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

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

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182

Tacet

182

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194 A quiet revelation (♩ = ca. 80)

189

8 give them your love but not your thoughts, your thoughts, For they *mp*

8 give them your love but not your thoughts, your thoughts, For they *mp*

8 give them your love but not your thoughts, your thoughts, For they *mp*

8 give them your love but not your thoughts, your thoughts, For they *mp*

189

*p rit. to next tempo* „ Tacet

199 A little more motion (♩ = ca. 90)

195

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

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

201

8 them but seek not to make them like you.

8 them but seek not to make them like you.

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

Primo: bring out

*mp*

with pedal

212

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216 Primo: R.H.

L.H.

216 Secondo:

*pp*

220

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220



232  
T  
8  
with \_\_\_\_\_ yes - ter - - - day.  
B  
with \_\_\_\_\_ yes - ter - - - day.

232  
*ff*  
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Joshua Shank  
*ff*

236  
8  
Your chil - - - dren are not your chil - dren  
Your \_\_\_\_\_ chil - - - dren are not your chil - dren

236  
*loco*  
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236

241 *sub. f*  
they are the sons and daughters of Life's long-ing —  
they are the sons and daughters of Life's long-ing —

241 *8va*  
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“This illegal copy will self destruct in 5...4...3...”

247

251  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

for it self.

for it - self.

for it - self.

for it self.

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247

8<sup>va</sup>

8<sup>va</sup>

loco 3...

8<sup>vb</sup>

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253

♩ = ♩

Musical score for strings and woodwinds. It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for violins (8) and the bottom two for violas (8). The music is in a key with three flats and a 3/4 time signature. The score includes various rhythmic patterns and rests.

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253

15<sup>va</sup>

Musical score for violins and violas. It consists of two staves. The top staff is for violins (15<sup>va</sup>) and the bottom for violas (8<sup>va</sup>). The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns and rests.

253

Musical score for piano accompaniment. It consists of two staves. The music features chords and rhythmic accompaniment for the strings.

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257

258  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

oh\*  
oh\*  
oh\*  
oh\*

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257

257

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\*Or other neutral vowel.

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

261

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261

*8va*

*ff loco*

*ff*

*8vb*

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Minneapolis, April 2010  
Single piano version: Austin, August 2013  
TTBB version: Muscatine, December 2013

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