

...of a Child

*A set of three piano pieces,
based on the Harmonic Études*

The Faith of a Child

The Hope of a Child

The Love of a Child

*Music by
Vanessa McClintock*

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...of a Child

I Corinthians, Chapter 13

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become *as* sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

4 Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;

6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;

7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

8 Charity never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall fail; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13 And now abideth *faith, hope, charity*, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

Moroni 7:47 But charity is the **pure love of Christ**, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

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Guide to Performance

Each of these short and somewhat simple piano pieces begins with a chordal progression—the *chaconne*—that is used in the Harmonic Études. Each piece then continues, almost uninterrupted with that chaconne, allowing for key changes and preparation for the modulations. Each has its own personality and imagination.

The Faith of a Child

Steadfastly, the piece builds with simple variations of a simple tune and accompaniment. A child's faith is often simple and unpretentious. It is, indeed, the "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Over a foundation of harmony that is constant through its change, the melody never questions in its pursuit of the final resolution, as with a child. This is the first composed in the series, written for my niece, Kimber.

The Hope of a Child

Hope is not always steadfast. It can waver—but it never gives up. "Hope" begins boldly, with confidence and strength, but appears to diminish as the piece progresses. It begins with strong rolled chords, but ultimately ends with simple and humbled chords with a reflection of the melody. Yet, it never abates, as with a child.

The Love of a Child

Of these three, this is the contrapuntal. It is more the complex, as is love. I have chosen to use the translation of "love" for the title because it seems to befit more closely the mind and the heart of the child. The word *Charity*, though, seems to encompass so much more than just *love*, particularly in its popular usage. Charity is love with service. It is never-ending and not a momentary act of kindness like the single twinkling of a star. It resonates in the hearts of all life with care, tenderness, and passion as well as compassion. It is actionable and selfless, and often, if not usually, best when anonymous. The melody, though always the same, continuously undergoes minor transformations. The music flows constantly, from beginning to reflective end. Sometimes it overlaps itself, joyfully, as with a child.

Vanessa McClintock
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The Faith of a Child

(Part of the Harmonic Étude series)

Vanessa McClintock

Simply and tenderly

♩. = 66-72

p

mp

5

9

12

15

//

18 *mp* *poco* *poco a poco cresc.*

22 *mf* *poco* *p subito*

25 *p* *poco cresc.* *mp*

28 *poco riten.*

31 *p riten.*

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♩ = 84-88

mf

Boldly

f

pedal with chord changes

poco riten.

22 *f* *a tempo* *poco a poco decresc.*

25 *mf* *poco a poco decresc.* *mp*

29 *play R.H. flatly* *poco a poco decresc.* *p* *don't roll chords - to end*
(roll L.H.)

33 *Reflectively* ♩=76-82 (don't roll) *mp* *mf* *mp* *rallen.*

39 *mf* *a tempo* *mp* *p* *pp*

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$\bullet = 72-76$

mf

Flowingly

6

10

14

(F#)

17

21

24

27

30

33 *Meno*

p

36 *Tempo Primo*

mf

rall. *poco*

39 *Piu Meno*

mf

42 *mp*

rit. *mp a tempo* *rall.* *p*