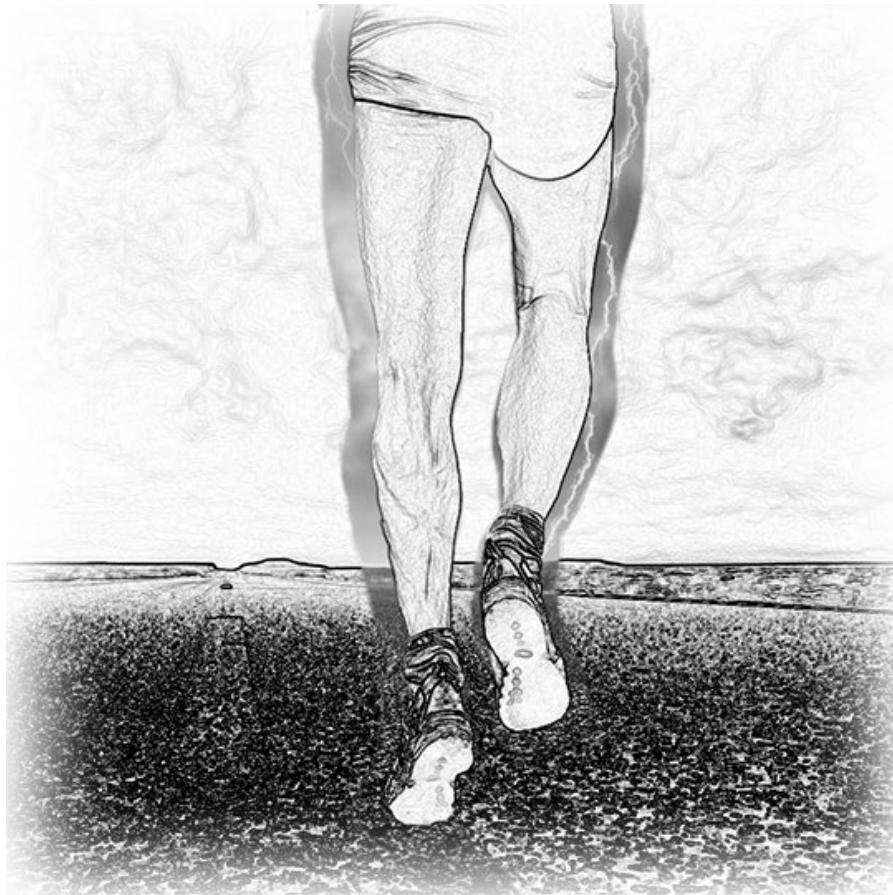


Overture for a Runner

*For medium to high voice
with piano accompaniment*



by
Vanessa McClintock

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Overture for a Runner is based on a premise presented to me in 1981.

It is about a high school boy with no or few friends—none close. He is a loner, a misfit, a young pre-adult without a sense of purpose or belonging, and who has not learned the skills necessary to adapt himself into societies of any age.

He feels lost and abandoned.

Someone—perhaps a coach, a parent, an adult, or a classmate observed that the young man had a natural gift for running and encouraged him to try out for the track team. The coach immediately recognized his niche to be in the 400- and 800-meter range, or possibly greater.

With consistent and positive prodding from a good coach, the young man developed into a championship runner and, during the process, developed self-confidence for the first time in his life.

As often happens with champions, classmates and others now sought after him for friendship, and then he had the new challenge of what to do with and how to handle his new friends.

This version, as with other works from my past, is essentially the same as the original, but with enhancements and improvements to make it fresh and vibrant.

As with the original, this is for solo voice (male) and female chorus, with accompaniment.

Also see the “notes” for *One in a Million* and *Visions*.

Vanessa McClintock
October 2023

Overture for a Runner

for medium to high voice

Lyrics: Vanessa McClintock

Vanessa McClintock

$\text{♩} = 60$

Piano *mf-f*

V.S. *mf*

Run - in' a - round with no place to go, Lost _____ in a crowd with

4 *mf*

V.S.

no one to show me the way. _____ No - thin' to do,

7

The musical score is written for piano and voice. The piano part begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part consists of two systems. The first system has three measures, with the first measure containing a whole rest and the second and third measures containing chords. The second system also has three measures, with the first measure containing a whole rest and the second and third measures containing chords. The voice part is written for a medium to high voice and consists of two systems. The first system has three measures, with the first measure containing a whole rest and the second and third measures containing a melody. The second system also has three measures, with the first measure containing a whole rest and the second and third measures containing a melody. The lyrics are: 'Run - in' a - round with no place to go, Lost _____ in a crowd with no one to show me the way. _____ No - thin' to do,'. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

V.S. 10

life's such a bore, and no - thing is com - ing my way.

 $\text{♩} = 92$

V.S. 13

Ch. 16

What is life if no -

Ch. 19

- thin' is grow - in'? Take what's there and make it a show - in'.

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3

$\text{♩} = 66$

Ch.

22

V.S.

26

mf

Some-one I am, need-ing some-thing to do, some - one I need to

V.S.

29

teach me of hu - mil - i - ty, and of love. But what can I do? I'll

V.S.

32

do what I can; I'll use all the pow - ers I have.

poco rall. *rit.* ♩ = 92

V.S.

Ch.

35

What is life if no - thin' is grow - in'? Take it make a show - in'

Ch.

38

Don't get trapped, now don't be a los - er; Look up to your fu - ture. What is life if no - thin' is grow - in'?

V.S.

Ch.

41

Goin' to run I'm join - in' the race now, tryin' to find out what I can be.

Look a - head and see _ where you're go - in'.

V.S. 44

Can't look back with vi - sions of dark - ness, Look-in' a - head it's the Light that I seek;

V.S. Ch. 46

Dar-in' my-self to be free! Can't stop run - nin', _____ won't stop run - nin'. _____

Run - nin'! Don't stop! Can't stop!

V.S. Ch. 49

Got-ta keep try - in' _____ ne-ver stop try - in', _____ Can't stop run - nin', _____

Keep on! Go _____ on! Can't stop!

V.S. won't stop run - nin' _____

Ch. Don't stop! Can't stop, won't stop, ne-ver stop, got-ta keep try - in'!

52

V.S. What is life if no - thin' is grow-in'? Don't get trapped now don't be a los-er;

Ch. Take what's there and make it a show-in'.

55

V.S. What is life if no - thin' is grow-in'?

Ch. Don't look down, look up — to your fu-ture. Look a - head and see where you're go-in'.

58

V.S. 61

Goin' to run I'm join-in' the race now, tryin' to find out what I can be. Can't look back with vi - sions of dark-ness,

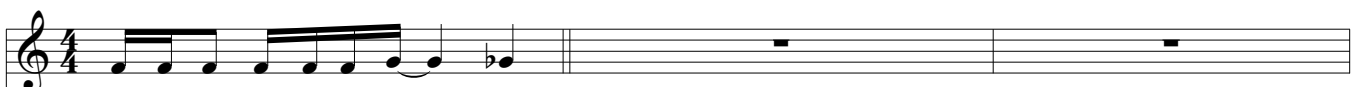
V.S. 64

Look-in' a - head it's the Light that I seek; Dar-in' my-self to be free!


V.S. Ch. 66

Got-ta keep run-nin' I'm... ——— tir-ed of quit-tin' and... ——— fight-in' to live in this ——— world,

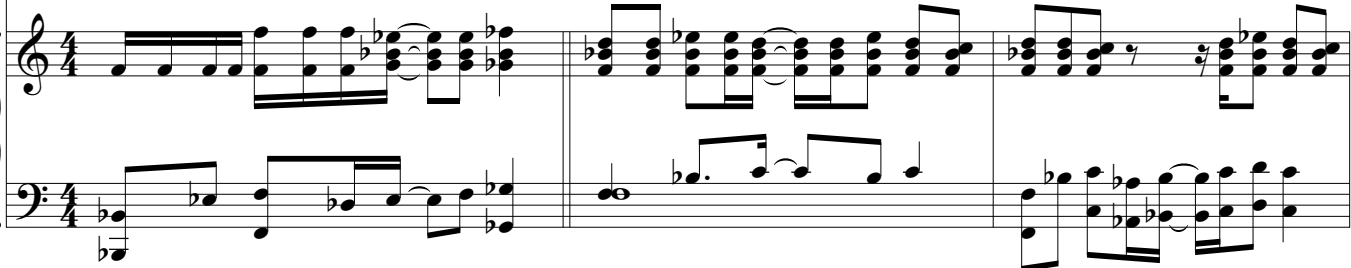
Run-nin'. Try - in'. Cry - in'. this world,

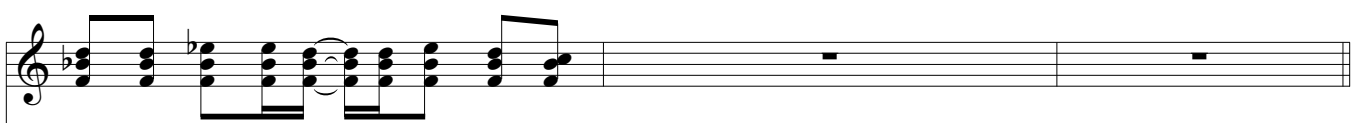
V.S. 

Al-ways re-mem-ber-in' these words:


Ch. 

these words: What is life if no — one is giv-in'?

69 

Ch. 

Take this life and make it worth liv-in'!

72 

V.S. 

Look I'm run-ning, but I'm not run-nin-a - way. — Can't be - lieve it,

75 

V.S. *accel.*

now I'm liv - ing, now I'm

80

 $\text{♩} = 100$

V.S.

free. At last, I am

83

 $\text{♩} = 100$

V.S.

me!

86

90