

RUTH AND NAOMI

REFLECTIONS ON OUR LIVES

*For two mezzo-soprani
with piano accompaniment*



by
Vanessa McClintock

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Naomi and Ruth

Reflections on Our Lives

*Dramatic duet between Naomi and Ruth
from the Old Testament of the Holy Bible*

For two mezzo-soprani and piano.

Music and Lyrics by Vanessa McClintock

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[First conceived in the summer of 2024, and to be included with “Mary’s Lullaby,” “Mary, at the Tomb,” “Woman at the Well,” and “Mary & Elisabeth” as part of an ongoing and growing set of themes with and about the Saviour. For mezzo soprano, tenor, and piano.]

Naomi and Ruth is based on the scripture found in the Book of Ruth of the Holy Bible. It is a fictional account of the two women reflecting on their lives as they enter old age. Ruth’s solo, “Entreat me not to leave you,” more directly is derived from that scripture.

To the composer, this is one of the notable examples of how love and bond two individuals and sustain them throughout their lives.

In this rendering, both vocal parts are given to mezzo-soprano voices, as that seems more fitting for women in their living conditions. The lower part is given to Naomi, the elder of the two women.

This is yet another entry into the ongoing series about the Saviour, beginning with *Mary’s Lullaby*—the mother and child; and *Mary, at the Tomb*—Mary Magdalene, two angels, and the resurrected Jesus. In this case, Ruth is a progenitor of Jesus, as given in the account of Matthew in the New Testament.

The text used is adapted from the King James Version and the Holman Christian Standard bibles.

Ruth	Naomi
<p>As do I, my dear Naomi. You have been a mother and a friend these many years. but the beginning of a wondrous life. We shared so many things, the loss of your son... Lives we have lived, and souls enjoined. We lived for our family. My loyalty was born with love: my pure love for you, and for your faith in your God, the God of Israel. He sustained us both. Entreat me not to leave you or turn back from following you. Wherever you go, I will go; I will go. And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people. And your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also. If anything but death parts you and me. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything ...but death parts you and me. You were my sister, my friend, my mother. Purpose... and grace. Love brought us together.</p> <p>Our love is a bond that withstands even death, even death.</p>	<p>Oh, Ruth. What a life we've shared together. Often, I remember leaving Moab for Bethlehem. Those were hard times that we shared. That journey was long ...a wondrous life. We shared so many things, the death of your husband. Lives we have lived, and souls enjoined. I lived for you Ruth. We lived for our fam'ly. How faithful you've been, my daughter, I remember your words when you pledged to stay with me. He sustained us both. Your words touched me to my soul. You were my daughter, my friend, my sister. Our love for God bound us together, from grief to redemption, we found purpose, and grace. Love has been our bond.</p> <p>Our love is a bond that withstands even death, even death.</p>

TIME: 8'27"

Naomi and Ruth

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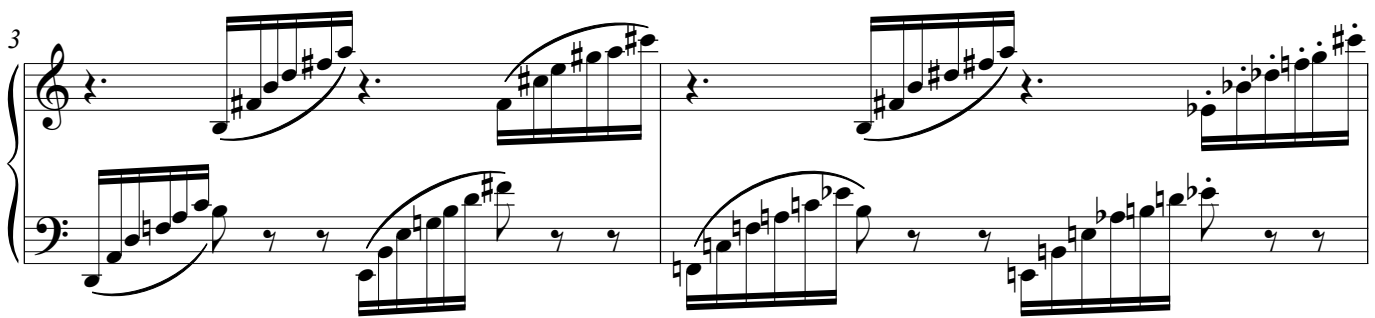
Two Mezzo-Sopranos and Piano

Litlingly, with endearment $\text{♩} = 48$

mp



3



5 *rallentando* *a tempo*



7 Naomi *mf* Oh, —



10

Ruth

Naomi

Ruth. — What a life we've shared to - geth - er. —

12

Ruth

Naomi

Of - ten, — I re - mem - ber leav - ing Mo - ab for Beth - le - hem. —

14

Ruth

Naomi

As do I, my dear Na - o - mi. —

mf

sub mp

16

Ruth

You have been a moth - er and a friend these ma - ny years.

Naomi

18

Ruth

Naomi

Those were hard times that

20

Ruth

Naomi

we shared. That jour - ney was long

22

Ruth

Naomi

—but the — be - gin - ning of a won - drous life.

...a won - drous life.

24

Ruth

Naomi

We shared — so ma - ny things, the

We shared — so ma - ny things,

26

Ruth

Naomi

loss of your son...

the death of your hus - band.

28

Ruth

Lives we have lived, and souls en - joined. We lived for our fam -

Naomi

Lives we have lived, and souls en - joined. I lived for you Ruth. We lived for our fam' -



30

Ruth

- - i - ly.

Naomi

- - - - ly. How



32

Ruth

Naomi

faith - ful you've been, my daugh - ter, I re - mem - ber your words when you pledged to



34

Ruth

Naomi

stay with me. _____

36

Ruth

Naomi

My loy - al - ty _____ was born with love: _____ my

38

Ruth

Naomi

pure love for you, and for your faith in _____ your God, _____ the God of

rit.

40 $\text{♩} = 56$

Ruth $\text{Is} - \text{ra} - \text{el.}$ He sus-tained us

Naomi He sus-tained us

42

Ruth both.

Naomi both.

44

Ruth

Naomi Your words

46 *rallentando*

Ruth

Naomi

touched me _____ to my soul.

p

48 ♩. = 48

Ruth

En - treat _____ me not to

mp

50

Ruth

leave you, or turn back _____ from fol - low - ing

52
Ruth

you. wher -

54
Ruth

ev - er you go, I will go; I _____ will

56
Ruth

go. And wher -

58
Ruth

ev - er you lodge, I will _____ lodge; your peo - ple shall _____ be my

60
Ruth

peo - ple. And your God, my

62
Ruth

God. Where you die,

64
Ruth

I will die, and

66
Ruth

there will I be bur - ied.

68
Ruth

The LORD do so to me,

70
Ruth

and more al - so. If an - y thing but death parts you and

72
Ruth

me. The

74
Ruth

LORD do so to me, and more al - so, if an - y -

76
Ruth

thing ...but death parts you and

78
Ruth

me.

81

84
Naomi

You've been my daugh - ter, my friend, my sis - ter.

86
Ruth

You are my sis - ter, my friend, my moth - er.

Naomi

88

90 *a tempo*

92

Ruth

Naomi

Our love for God — bound us to - geth - er, from grief to re - demp - tion,

94

Ruth

Naomi

Pur - pose... and grace.

we found pur - pose, and grace.

96

Ruth

Naomi

Love brought us to - geth - er.

98

Ruth

Naomi

Love has been our bond. Our

love is a bond that with-stands e - ven death, e - ven death.

love is a bond that with - stands e - ven death, e - ven death. [Alternate: B \flat]

100

$\text{♩} = 44$