

RUTH AND NAOMI

REFLECTIONS ON OUR LIVES

*For mezzo-soprano and contralto,
with strings 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 mezzo-soprano and contralto, with strings

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. This version is for strings orchestra or string quintet.]

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 lower 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
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. Our love is a bond that withstands even death, even death.	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. Our love is a bond that withstands even death, even death.

Naomi and Ruth

Reflections on Our Lives

Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, and Strings

arranged for strings accompaniment: quintet or orchestra

String Orchestra plays divisi unless otherwise noted.

Text abridged and adapted from the Book of Ruth

Vanessa McClintock

Liltingly, with endearment ♩. = 48

Ruth
Mezzo-Soprano

Naomi
Contralto

Liltingly, with endearment ♩. = 48

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

mp

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

The musical score is for a piece titled 'Naomi and Ruth: Reflections on Our Lives' by Vanessa McClintock. It is arranged for Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, and Strings. The tempo is 'Liltingly, with endearment' at a quarter note equal to 48 beats. The time signature is 12/8. The score is in two systems. The first system contains staves for Ruth (Mezzo-Soprano), Naomi (Contralto), Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. Ruth and Naomi have whole rests. Violin I and II have a melody starting with a half note, followed by eighth notes, and then a quarter note. Viola has a whole rest. Violoncello and Double Bass have a melody starting with a half note, followed by eighth notes, and then a quarter note. The second system continues the string parts. Ruth and Naomi have whole rests. Violin I and II continue their melody. Viola has a whole rest. Violoncello and Double Bass continue their melody. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *pizz.* (pizzicato).

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3

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

arco

Measure 3: Vln. I and Vln. II enter with melodic lines. Vla. and Vc. have rhythmic patterns. D.B. is silent. Dynamics include *mp* and *arco*.

Measure 4: Vln. I and Vln. II continue their melodic lines. Vla. and Vc. continue their rhythmic patterns. D.B. is silent.

5

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

a tempo

rallentando

arco

pizz.

mp

Measure 5: Vln. I and Vln. II enter with melodic lines. Vla. is silent. Vc. has a melodic line. D.B. is silent. Dynamics include *a tempo*, *rallentando*, and *arco*.

Measure 6: Vln. I and Vln. II continue their melodic lines. Vla. is silent. Vc. continues its melodic line. D.B. has a pizzicato line. Dynamics include *a tempo*, *rallentando*, *arco*, *pizz.*, and *mp*.

3

10

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

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

D.B. *p*

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12

R

N

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

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

14

R

N

As do I, my dear Na - o - mi.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

p

mp

p

mp

p

mp

p

16

R

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

18

R

Those were hard times that

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

p

mp

p

mp

p

mp

p

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20

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

22

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

mp

we shared. That jour - ney was long

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

24

R

We shared _____ so ma - ny things, the

N

We shared _____ so ma - ny things,

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.

26

R

loss of your son...

N

the death of your hus - band.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.

pizz.

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28

R

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

N

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

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

arco

30

R

- - i - ly. _____

N

- - - - - ly. _____ How

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

arco

32

R

N

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

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

34

R

N

stay with me.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

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36

R

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

38

R

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

40 $\text{♩} = 56$

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

N He sus-tained us

Vln. I $\text{♩} = 56$

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

42

R both.

N both.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

44

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Your words

pizz.

pizz.

arco

pizz.

46

rallentando

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

touched me _____ to my soul.

rallentando

p

p

arco

p

arco

p

arco

p

48 $\text{♩} = 48$

R
En - treat _____ me not to

N

Vln. I mp

Vln. II mp

Vla. mp

Vc. mp

D.B. mp pizz.

50

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

52

R

you. wher -

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

arco



54

R

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.

arco



56

R

go. And wher -

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

58

R

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

60

R

peo - ple. And your God, my

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

62

R

God. Where you die,

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.

64

R

I will die, and

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

66

R

there will I be bur - ied.

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

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68

R

The LORD _____ do so to me, _____

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. pizz.

D.B.

70

R

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. arco

D.B.

pizz.

arco

72

R

me. The

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

pizz.

Vc.

D.B.

74

R

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

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76

R

thing ...but death parts you and

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

arco

Vc.

D.B.

78

R

me.

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

pizz.

Vc.

pizz.

D.B.

81

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

84

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

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

arco

arco

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86

R

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

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

arco

arco

88

R

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

90 *a tempo*

R

N

a tempo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B. *arco*

92

R

N

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

pizz.

Vln. I

pizz.

Vln. II

pizz.

Vla.

pizz.

Vc.

pizz.

D.B. *pizz.*

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94

R

Pur - pose... and grace.

N

we found pur - pose, and grace.

Vln. I

arco

Vln. II

arco

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

96

R

Love brought us to - geth - er.

N

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

98

R

N

Love has been our bond. Our

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

arco

100

R

N

love is a bond that with - stands e - ven

love is a bond that with - stands e - ven

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.

102

R death. _____ Our love is a bond that

N death. _____ Our love is a bond that

Vln. I pizz. arco rit.

Vln. II pizz. arco

Vla. arco

Vc. arco

D.B. arco

105

R with - stands e - ven death. ____ E - ven death.

N with - stands e - ven death. ____ E - ven death.

Vln. I a tempo pizz. arco

Vln. II pizz. arco

Vla. pizz. arco

Vc. pizz. arco

D.B. pizz. arco