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# To A Young Life

for Solo Piano

by Stephen Hill (ASCAP)

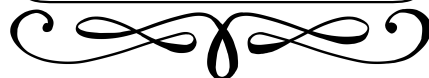
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SARAHTIM



Music Publishing  
(Stephen Hill)



### **About the Work...**

A reflective piece for solo piano was composed nearly 35 years ago in memory of Lance Hardgrave (1969-1984), a young high school student from the church we both attended. Lance looked to me for mentoring and friendship. Lance liked to play baseball and go to the movies. In 1984, one of the last movies he asked me to see with him before he and his family moved to Arkansas, was *The Karate Kid*.

With my limited piano skills, I wanted to write a piece that I could personally play. And yet, within that limited technical scope, compositionally convey the sorrow and sadness of Lance's passing.

### **About the Composer...**

Stephen Hill (b.1958) was born and raised in Southern California. His compositional lineage includes the likes of Roy Harris, Ingolf Dahl, Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, and Howard Hanson through study with Philip Westin (Cerritos College, 1976-1978) and most notably with W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas (1978-1980). Stephen continued with graduate work at California State University, Los Angeles (1980-83) with composers Dr. Byong Kon Kim and William Hill. He composes for the simple joy of it.

For over 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music concurrently in both the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and a Public School (California High School) settings. Though semi-retired, Stephen still works with students by continuing to teach part-time at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra at Calvary Chapel, La Habra, CA. where he attends. When teaching full-time, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege to compose beyond just the summer months and publishes through his company, SARAHTIM—a title which comes from simply combining the name of his daughter Sarah and son Timothy.

## **SARAHTIM Music Publishing**

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*“Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence.”*  
*J.S.Bach*

*“Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world,  
from eternity to eternity, you are God.”*  
*(Psalm 90:2)*

*“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*  
*(Romans 5:7-8)*

for Lance, In Memoriam

# To A Young Life

Stephen Hill

Mournful, Reflective, with Ebb and Flow

$\text{♩} = 78$

Measures 1-4 of the piano score. The music is in 4/4 time. The right hand starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The left hand plays a descending eighth-note pattern: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*. A *Ped.* marking is present under the first measure.

Measures 5-8 of the piano score. The right hand has a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The left hand continues the descending eighth-note pattern. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*.

Measures 9-12 of the piano score. The right hand has a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The left hand continues the descending eighth-note pattern. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*.

Measures 13-16 of the piano score. The right hand has a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B4. The left hand continues the descending eighth-note pattern. Dynamics include *pp* and *p*.