

NOTES for the performer...

This piece is notated so that it can be played with one hand. As the composer, I encourage you to consider playing the song with your non-dominant hand for good training. I'm right-handed, so I recorded this for you with my left hand on my website: www.amystephens.com

The intro is mm. 1-8. Then beginning in m. 9, the melody line is always slurred to show you which notes are most important. Notice also that the pedal markings are very specific to blend the harmonies together underneath the melody line. Accurate pedaling and slurring will make this piece sing.

ABOUT hummingbirds:

One particularly foggy summer in my San Francisco garden, we had an unexpected and lovely experience when a mother hummingbird chose the loquat tree in our backyard for her nest. As we watched the two baby hummingbirds grow each day, we learned a lot about how the mother protects her young. This hummingbirds piece captures the wonder and emotions I felt as I witnessed her caring for her babies each day until they eventually left the nest.

Did you know that a mother hummingbird will...

-search for just the right location for her nest, choosing a secluded tree near water and food sources, like nectar-rich plants.

-spend seven days building a one-inch diameter nest out of spider silk so that the nest is firmly anchored to the tree branch and so that the nest will expand as the baby birds grow. She covers the outside of the nest with moss and lichen to camouflage it.

-lay two eggs so two babies will grow alongside each other.

-eat nectar and small insects and then feed her babies by using her very long beak to funnel the mixture into each baby's beak.

The babies will leave their nest about one month after birth. Neither the babies nor the mother will return to the original nest.

