

Charlottesville
for solo piano

5 minutes

Brooke Joyce (2017)

Premiered by Brooke Joyce, 2017

Program Note: On August 11 and 12, 2017, groups of mostly white men gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia to march with torches and shout declarations of white supremacy. In the ensuing counter-protest, many were injured, and one young woman and two Virginia state troopers were killed. I have lived in Charlottesville, my wife grew up there, and our family has visited many times. This tragedy shook us to the core. For some reason, Oscar Peterson's great Civil Rights Era anthem, "Hymn to Freedom," repeatedly played in my mind as I read about the events of the weekend and saw photos. This piano solo is a kind of fantasy based on Peterson's music, and is a tribute to those who stand up to hatred and fearmongering.