

TTBB Version commissioned by Turtle Creek Chorale, Dallas, TX, Sean Mikel Baugh, Artistic Director.

Co-commissioners listed in the program notes.

Dedicated to Sean Mikel Baugh for his advocacy for kindness in our new choral music community.

Keep Going

For SATB and piano

(String and piano or orchestra version available)

(2023)

Carlos Cordero

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www.thehappychoir.com



ABOUT THE WORK

My biggest challenge in life is fear of the unknown and being uncertain of the future. If there was ever a time when I didn't know what was coming, this was it. Not even 2020, but 2023 won that place. "Keep Going" is a phrase that has helped me while trying to get back on my feet. Ironically, Ryan and I created this piece while going through the biggest challenge in our relationship: separation.

I hope this piece helps you know that even during difficult times, even when we think that we shouldn't be in this world, love is always there, and we can support each other. Let's reach out to each other and be kinder. We are all hurting in some ways.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling with suicidal thoughts, please reach out to your community and any of the resources below:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

(800) 273-TALK (8255)

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

988

Crisis Text Line

Text HOME to [741741](https://www.crisistextline.com)

CMHC 24/7 Crisis Line

512-471-2255

To learn more about me and The Happy Choir, visit:

www.thehappychoir.com/bio



TEXT

Dear One,

In these challenging times,
when it's difficult to see the sun
and the shadows whisper: "do this,
don't do that. Be like this. Why are
you like that?"

When pain seems to take up more
space than hope

Know this:

We all hurt
We all have scars
We all question
We all fear

But we do not need to hide.
Keep Going.

Live

Your life

Alive

We are all pieces of stars,
Embers in the fire of the universe
Clouds dancing in the sky

Please remember:

In the darkness of night
A single flame burns bright
Don't be afraid of the unknown,
try to silence "should,"
Give the world your brilliant,
beautiful light.

Keep going.

Love always,
Dear one;

Ryan Heller

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 Watermarkly

Keep Going

Text by
Ryan Heller (b. 1979)

for SATB and piano (string or orchestra version available)

Music
Carlos Cordero (b. 1992)
New Choral Music Advocate

A Through the pain, with love ♩ = 76

S
Dear One, in these chal-leng-ing times

A
Dear One, in these chal-leng-ing times

T
Dear One, in these chal-leng-ing times

Pno.

5
when it's dif-fi-cult to see the sun and the shad-ows_ whis-per:

5
when it's dif-fi-cult to see the sun and the shad-ows_ whis-per:

5
when it's dif-fi-cult to see the sun and the shad-ows_ whis-per:

5
when it's dif-fi-cult to see the sun and the shad-ows_ whis-per:

9 **B** *p* 10 * 11 12 4

13 14 15 16

13 14 15 16

* : This is a place to share your thoughts, what things have people (or yourself) said? (speak, scream, but, please, avoid whispering!) If that's too vulnerable, speak this text instead: "do this, don't do that. Be like this. Be like that."

17

18

mp

19

20

Dear One, when

mp

Dear One, when

mp

Dear One, when

17

18

19

20

p

C

21

22

23

24

p

pain ___ seems to take up ___ more space than hope know this:

p

pain ___ seems to take ___ up more space than hope know this:

pain ___ seems to take up ___ more space than hope

p

pain ___ seems to take ___ up more space than hope ___ know this:

21

22

23

24

25 **D** *f* *pp*

We all hurt We all have scars

We all hurt We all have scars

We all hurt We all have scars

25 26 27 28

29 *mf*

We all quest - ion We all fear

We all quest - ion We all fear

We all quest - ion We all fear But

29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36 7

p *mp*

Keep go - ing. Keep go - ing.

p *mp*

Keep go - ing. Keep go - ing.

p *mp*

we do not hide. Keep go - ing. Keep go - ing.

33 34 35 36

mf *p*

37 38 39 40

mf *mf* *mf*

Keep go - ing. Dear

Keep go - ing. Dear

Keep go - ing. Dear

37 38 39 40

mp *mf* *f*

mf

One, Live Your

One, Live Your

One, Live Your

f

life A - - - live.

life A - - - live.

life A - - - live.

A - - - live, a - - - live. In the

A - - - live a - - - live. In the

A - - - live, a - - - live. In the

49 50 51 52

dark - ness of night a sin - gle flame burns

dark - ness of night a sin - gle flame burns

dark - ness of night a sin - gle flame burns

53 54 55 56

53 54 55 56

E Like a kid, limitless and playful! $\text{♩} = 66$

57 *mf* 58 *mp* 59 60

bright _____ don't be a - fraid of _____ the _____ un - known, try to

bright _____ don't be a - fraid of _____ the _____ un - known, try to

bright _____ don't be a - fraid of _____ the _____ un - known, try to

57 *mf* 58 *mp* 59 60

The first system of the score consists of four staves. The top three staves are vocal staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff has a dynamic marking of *mf* and a fermata over the first measure. The second and third staves have dynamic markings of *mf* and *mp* respectively. The bottom staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and chords in the treble. Measure numbers 57, 58, 59, and 60 are indicated above the staves.

61 *f* 62 *mp* 63 64

si - lence the "should," _____ give the world _____ your bril - liant, _____

si - lence the "should," _____ give the world _____ your bril - liant, _____

si - lence the "should," _____ give the world _____ your bril - liant, _____

61 *f* 62 *mp* 63 64

The second system of the score consists of four staves. The top three staves are vocal staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff has a dynamic marking of *f* and a fermata over the first measure. The second and third staves have dynamic markings of *f* and *mp* respectively. The bottom staff is a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a dynamic marking of *f*. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the bass and chords in the treble. Measure numbers 61, 62, 63, and 64 are indicated above the staves.

65

mf

66 67 68

beau - ti - ful_ light. Give the world your bril - liant,

beau - ti - ful_ light. Give the world your bril-

beau - ti - ful_ light. Give the world your bril - liant,

65 66 67 68

mf

69

70

71

beau - ti - ful_ light Keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

- liant beau - ti - ful_ light

beau - ti - ful_ light

69 70 71

f

72

73

74

keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

mp Keep go - ing, keep go - ing, keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

mf We are all pie - ces

72

73

74

mf

75

76

77

keep go - ing, Keep go - ing, keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

of stars,

75

76

77

78

79

80

keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

keep go - ing, Keep go - ing, keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

Em - bers in the fire of the

78

79

80

Piano accompaniment for measures 78-80, featuring chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand.

81

82

83

keep go - ing, keep go - ing, *mf* Clouds danc - ing

keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

f u - ni - verse, Keep go - ing, Keep go - ing,

81

82

83

Piano accompaniment for measures 81-83, featuring chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand.

84 *

in the sky

keep go - ing, keep go - ing, Ah

Ah

f

f

f

mp

* : The stems up in the soprano 1 are optional (preferably a solo) but if you are doing it, let's sing it together when we meet :)

87 88 89 90

87 88 89 90

rit.

91 *mp* 92 93 94 95

Love _____ al - ways, _____ Love

Love _____ al - ways, _____ Love

Love _____ al - ways, _____ Love

91 92 93 94 95

96 *mf* 97 98 99

al - ways, Love, _____ Love _____

al - ways, Love, _____ Love _____

al - ways, Love, _____ Love _____

96 97 98 99

100 *mp* 101 102 103 *p*

al - ways, Dear

al - ways, Dear

al - ways, Dear

100 *p* 101 102 103

104 *mf* 105 106 107

One, al - - - ways, al -

One, al - - - ways, al -

One, al - - - ways, al -

104 *mp* 105 106 107

ways, Dear One; *p*

ways, Dear One; *p*

ways, Dear One; *p*

108 109

Austin, July 2023.
Approx. Duration 5'

Keep Going Commission Consortium

Turtle Creek Chorale

Sean Mikel Baugh, Charles Longcope, Jr. Artistic Director & Conductor

Gay Men's Chorus of Charlotte

John C. Quillin, Managing Artistic Director

Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida

Gabe Salazar, Artistic Director

Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus

Eric Shepard, Artistic Director & Conductor

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus

Donald Milton III, Artistic Director

Hebron High School Choir

Alexander Carr, Director

East Tennessee State University BucsWorth Choir

Lauren E. Ramey, Associate Director of Choral Activities