

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 SSAA 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 SSAA 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

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

A
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:

6 7 8

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

6 7 8

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

6 7 8

Pno.

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

mm *p* *

mm *p* *

mm

Musical score for three vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) and piano accompaniment, measures 9-12. The key signature is three flats (B-flat major/C minor). The vocal parts are marked *p* (piano) and have a box with an asterisk (*) above measure 10. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

13 14 15 16

Musical score for three vocal parts and piano accompaniment, measures 13-16. Measures 13-15 are empty staves with a double bar line and repeat sign at the end of measure 16. The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand, marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 15.

* : 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."

18 *mp* 19 20

Dear One, when

Dear One, when

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:

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

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

21 22 23 24

25 *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

7

34 *p* 35 36 *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 *mf* 35 *p* 36

37

38 *mf* 39 40

Keep go - ing. Dear

mf

Keep go - ing. Dear

mf

Keep go - ing. Dear

37

38 39 40

mp *mf* *f*

42 43 44 *mf*

One, _____ Live _____ Your

One, _____ Live _____ Your

One, _____ Live _____ Your

41 42 43 44 *mf*

45 46 47 48 *f*

life _____ A - - - live _____

life _____ A - - - live _____

life _____ A - - - live _____

45 46 47 48 *f*

49

mp 9

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

mp

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

mp

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

53

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

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

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

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

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

This system contains three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics 'keep go - ing, keep go - ing,'. The middle staff is another vocal line with lyrics 'keep go - ing, Keep go - ing, keep go - ing, keep go - ing,'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with lyrics 'Em - bers in the fire of the'. The piano part features chords and melodic lines in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand.

78

79

80

This block shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). It features chords and melodic lines corresponding to the vocal parts above.

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,

This system contains three staves. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics 'keep go - ing, keep go - ing, Clouds danc - ing'. The middle staff is another vocal line with lyrics 'keep go - ing, keep go - ing,'. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with lyrics 'u - ni - verse, Keep go - ing, Keep go - ing,'. The piano part features chords and melodic lines in the right hand and bass notes in the left hand. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.

81

82

83

This block shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). It features chords and melodic lines corresponding to the vocal parts above.

84 *

in the sky

keep go - ing, keep go - ing, Ah

Ah

84 85 86

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* Love al - ways, Love

92 93 94 95

91 *mp* Love al - ways, Love

92 93 94 95

91 *mp* Love al - ways, Love

92 93 94 95

96 *mf* al - ways, Love, Love

97 98 99

96 *mf* al - ways, Love, Love

97 98 99

96 *mf* al - ways, Love, Love

97 98 99

100 *mp* 101 102 103 *p*

al - ways, Dear

al - ways, Dear

al - ways, Dear

100 *p*

104 *mf* 105 106 107

One, al - - ways, al -

One, al - - ways, al -

One, al - - ways, al -

104 *mp* 105 106 107

- - ways, Dear *p* One; 109
 - - ways, Dear *p* One;
 - - ways, Dear *p* One;

108
 109

Austin, July 2023.
Approx. Duration 5'

Keep Going TTBB 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