

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 TTBB and piano

(String and piano or orchestra version available)

(2023)

Carlos Cordero

The image shows the beginning of the musical score for the Tenor (T) and Bass (B) parts. Both parts are in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The Tenor part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a half note G4. The Bass part starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter rest, and then a half note G2. Both parts end with a double bar line. The word 'tenor' is written above the Tenor staff and 'bass' is written above the Bass staff.

\* : Optional Bb for T1

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[www.thehappychoir.com](http://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](http://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**

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

[www.thehappychoir.com/bio](http://www.thehappychoir.com/bio)

 Watermarkly

# Keep Going

Text by  
Ryan Heller (b. 1979)

for TTBB and piano (string or orchestra version available)

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

**A** Through the pain, with love ♩ = 76

Dear One, in these chal-leng-ing times

Dear One, in these chal-leng-ing times

Dear One, in these chal-leng-ing times

Piano accompaniment with dynamics *p* and *mp*.

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

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

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

Piano accompaniment with dynamics *mf* and *mp*.

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

mm *p* \*

mm *p* \*

mm

13 14 15 16

13 14 15 16

*mf*

\* : 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

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

26 27 28

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

30 31 32

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*

41

42

43

*mf* 44

8

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

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

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

49

49 50 51 52

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

53

53 54 55 56

*mp*

**E** Like a kid, limitless and playful! ♩ = 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,

66 67 68

beau - ti - ful\_ light. Give the world your bril-

66 67 68

beau - ti - ful\_ light. Give the world your bril - liant,

65

*mf*

66 67 68

69

70

71

beau - ti - ful\_ light Keep go - ing, keep go - ing,

70 71

- liant beau - ti - ful\_ light

70 71

beau - ti - ful\_ light

69

70

71

70 71

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,

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

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score. It features three staves: two vocal staves (treble clef) and one piano accompaniment staff (bass clef). The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'keep go - ing, keep go - ing,' on the first line; 'keep go - ing, Keep go - ing, keep go - ing, keep go - ing,' on the second line; and 'Em - bers in the fire of the' on the third line. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands. Measure numbers 78, 79, and 80 are indicated at the top.

78

79

80

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 78, 79, and 80. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is written in chords and moving lines, corresponding to the vocal parts above. Measure numbers 78, 79, and 80 are indicated at the top.

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,

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score. It features three staves: two vocal staves (treble clef) and one piano accompaniment staff (bass clef). The key signature remains three flats, and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'keep go - ing, keep go - ing, *mf* Clouds danc - ing' on the first line; 'keep go - ing, keep go - ing,' on the second line; and '*f* u - ni - verse, Keep go - ing, Keep go - ing,' on the third line. The piano accompaniment includes dynamic markings like *f* and *mf*. Measure numbers 81, 82, and 83 are indicated at the top.

81

82

83

84

in the sky

keep go - ing, keep go - ing, Ah

Ah

84

*mp*

\* : The stems up in the tenor 1 are optional but if you are doing it, let's sing it together when we meet :)

87

88

89 *rit.*

90

87

88

89

90

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*

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;

ways, Dear One;

ways, Dear One;

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