

JR0062

Jake Runestad

PLEASE STAY

SATB choir (divisi) & piano

Text

No! Don't go!

Don't let your worst day be your last.
The storm is strong, but it will pass.
You think you can't go on another day,
but please stay. Just stay.

Hope is real. Help is real.
You are breath, you are life,
you are beauty, you are light.

Your story is not over.
You are not a burden to anyone.

Please stay. Just stay.

[Text adapted from tweets using #IKeptLiving — expressions of hope from those who battle depression and chose to live.]

Performance Time c. 6:30

About the Work

Commissioned by the Ohio Choral Directors Association College & University Commissioning Consortium.

North Carolina State University (Daniel Monek,
consortium coordinator)
Ashland University (Ron Blackley)
Bowling Green State University (Mark Munson,
Tim Cloeter)
Capital University (Lynda Hassler)
Cleveland State University (Brian Bailey)
College of Wooster (Lisa Wong)
Denison University (Wei Cheng)
Hiram University (Dawn Sonntag)
Kent State University (Scott MacPherson)
Malone University (Jon Peterson)
Marietta College (Jay Dougherty)

Miami University (Bill Bausano, Jeremy Jones)
Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Bob Tocheff)
Muskingum University (Zebulon Highben)
Ohio Christian University (Dione Bennet)
Otterbein University (Gayle Walker)
Sinclair Community College (Nolan Long)
University of Akron (Marie Bucoy- Calavan)
University of Dayton (Robert Jones)
University of Mount Union (Grant Cook)
University of Toledo (Brad Pierson)
Wright State University (Hank Dahlman)
Xavier University (Rich Schnipke)
Youngstown State University (Hae-Jong Lee)

About the Composer



Considered “highly imaginative...with big ideas” (Baltimore Sun) and “stirring and uplifting” (Miami Herald), award-winning composer Jake Runestad (b. 1986) has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations such as Washington National Opera, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble, Seraphic Fire, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Virginia Arts Festival, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare.

Dubbed a “choral rockstar” by American Public Media, Jake is one of the most frequently performed composers in the U.S.A. Jake Runestad holds a Master's degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. He has also studied extensively with acclaimed composer Libby Larsen. A native of Rockford, IL, Mr. Runestad currently lives in Minneapolis, MN and his music is published by Boosey & Hawkes and JR Music.

Find out more at: JakeRunestad.com

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Read the story behind this work and
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jakerunestad.com/store/please-stay

for N, C, and so many others

PLEASE STAY

for SATB choir & piano

Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)

Aggressive ♩=88 rit.

ff with urgency *mp pleading* slowly close to "oo"

Choir

No! Don't go! Don't go! Don't go.

Aggressive ♩=88 rit.

ff *p*

Piano

Soloist should stand in front of the choir.

Soprano or Alto (or Soprano section):

6 *mp comforting*

Solo

Don't let your worst day be your last. The storm is strong, but it will pass... You

Choir

pp

pp

Pno.



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A portion of the proceeds from this work will be donated to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
More info at afsp.org

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10 *rit.* *a tempo*

Solo *think you can't go on_ an - oth - er day, but please ^(s-s) stay. Just ^(st-st)*

Choir

Pno.

10

14 *Flowing* ♩=60 - 63

Solo *stay.*

Choir *Stay. Just*

Pno. *Flowing* ♩=60 - 63

14

18

Choir *stay. Stay.*

Pno.

18

*Throughout the work, the "s" and "st" sounds should not be elided. **Equal, three-way split.

20 *p*

Choir

oo ————— Your last. The

mp

Don't let your worst day be your last.

Pno.

mp

20

22 *mf*

Choir

storm is strong, it will pass. * You

but it will pass. *mf* You

Pno.

cresc.

22 *No break!

24 *rit.* $\text{♩} = 48$ *a tempo* *mp*

Choir

think you can't go on — an-oth-er day, but please

mp

think you can't go on — an-oth-er day, but please

rit. $\text{♩} = 48$ *a tempo*

Pno.

dim.

3 3

24

27

Choir

stay. Just

Pno.

p

29

Choir

stay.

Pno.

accel.

31

Choir

Hope is real. Help is real. You are

Pno.

With motion ♩=76

mf

33 *cresc.* **molto rit.** $\text{♩} = 58$ 5

Choir
breath, you are life, you are beau - ty, you are

Pno.
cresc. 3 3 3 3

35 **ff** **a tempo** **rit.**

Choir
light. You are

Pno.
ff **a tempo** **rit.**

37 **a tempo**

Choir
light. Your

Pno.
a tempo

39

Choir

sto - ry is not o - ver. You are not a bur - den to

Pno.

molto rit.

41

Choir

mf an - y - one. *mp* slowly close to "n" nn

mf an - y - one. *mp* slowly close to "n" nn

Pno.

mp *mp*

molto rit.

43

Solo

mp *poco* *poco*

Please stay. Just

Pno.

Comforting ♩=60 *p*

46 *poco*

Solo

stay.

Pno.

Starting here, the speakers (at m. 52) begin to emerge slowly, one-by-one. They stand scattered across the front of the space.

48

Solo

Choir

Stay. Just

p mp

p mp

Stay.

Pno.

p mp

48

50

Choir

stay. Please

Stay.

Pno.

50

During this repeat, individuals from the ensemble will speak the lines in the box below. The lines should be spoken with sensitivity, not overly "performed" but rather with simple sincerity, yet clearly and deliberately articulated. There should be a brief pause between each spoken line; do not rush from one to the next. Repeat this section as often as necessary until all of the lines have been spoken. After each speaker finishes the line, she/he should move closer to another speaker and grab his/her hand showing solidarity. Variations can include other members of the choir stepping forward and comforting the speakers and/or the rest of the choir encircling the speakers after they have spoken their lines.

Repeat ad lib.

Choir

52

stay. Just

Pno.

Stay.

Repeat ad lib.

Pno.

52

Stay.

Spoken lines:

- My happiness is no longer in the hands of someone else.
- I realized that what people say about me reflects who they are, not who I am.
- It's okay to be a work-in-progress.
- Sharing your feelings doesn't make you weak.
- Some days are still such a struggle.
- All I can think about is Nathan. I wish he kept living. (Another name may be substituted.)
- I decided to ask for help instead of going through it alone.
- It was hard as hell, but I kept living.
- One person took the time to listen and understand. Sometimes that's all it takes.

These statements were adapted from actual tweets using the hashtag #IKeptLiving – expressions of hope from those who battle depression and chose to live.

Choir

54

stay. Please

Pno.

Stay.

Pno.

54

Stay.

Musical score for measures 56-58. The score is for a Choir and Piano (Pno.).

Choir: Measures 56-58. The vocal line consists of two parts. The upper part (Soprano/Alto) has lyrics "Please stay." and the lower part (Tenor/Bass) has lyrics "Stay.". Both parts are marked with a *poco* hairpin. The notes are sustained across the measures.

Piano (Pno.): Measures 56-58. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand.

Musical score for measures 59-61. The score is for a Choir and Piano (Pno.).

Choir: Measures 59-61. The vocal line consists of two parts. Both parts have lyrics "Stay.". The upper part is marked with a *poco* hairpin and ends with a *pp* dynamic marking. The lower part is also marked with a *poco* hairpin and ends with a *pp* dynamic marking.

Piano (Pno.): Measures 59-61. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. The tempo is marked *molto rit.* (molto ritardando).