## Jake Runestad

# PLEASE STAY

unison choir & 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)

Mariette Cellege (In Development)

Marietta College (Jay Dougherty)

## Share

Read the story behind this work and share your #ReasonsToStay:

jakerunestad.com/store/please-stay

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.

## Perusal Score

Please purchase scores at:

JakeRunestad.com/store

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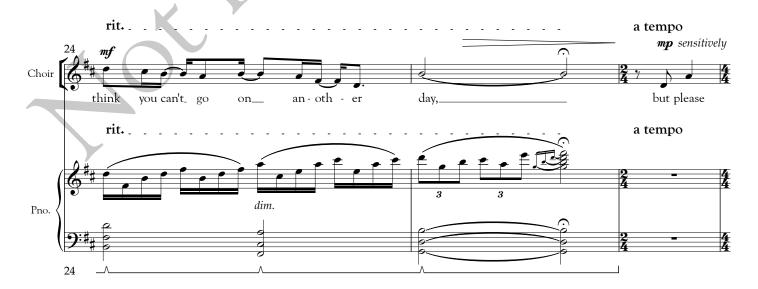
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## PLEASE STAY

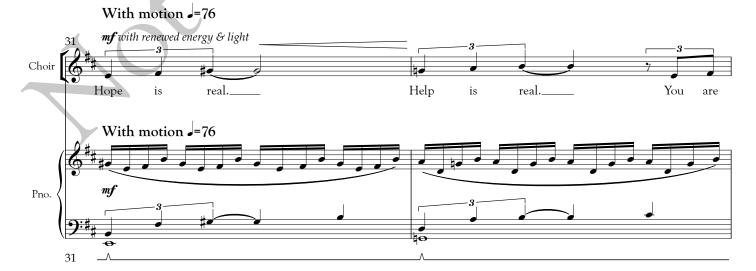




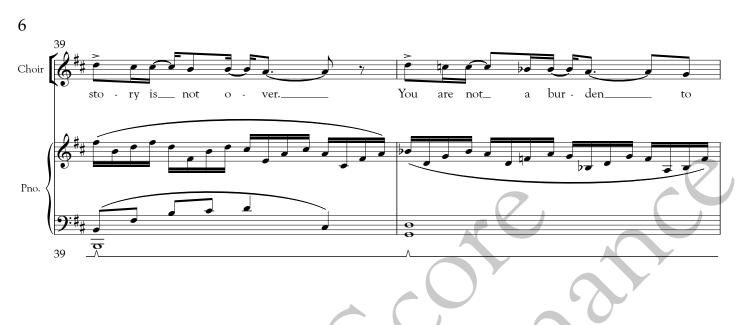




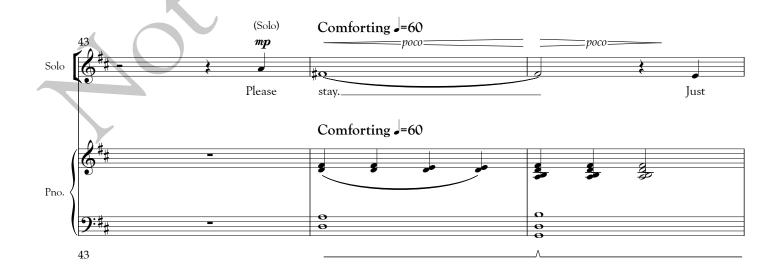












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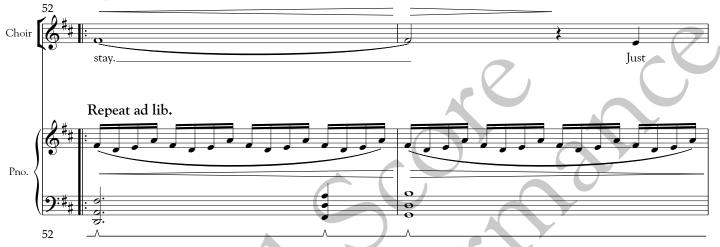
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During this repeat, individuals from the ensemble will speak the lines in the box below. The lines should be spoken with sensitivity, not overly "performed" but rather with simple sincerity, yet clearly and deliberately articulated. There should be 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.



#### 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.
- Suicide doesn't get rid of your pain, it passes it on to everyone else.
- 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 subsituted.)
- 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.

