

LOVE NEVER FAILS

1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:13,
adapt. by D.H.

Music by
David Haas

Legato ♩ = ca. 96

Capo 3: (DADD9)
FADD9

(Bm)
Dm

(Em)
Gm

(G/B)(A/C#)
Bb/D C/E Solo
mp

1. If I

mp *rit.*

Verses

(DADD9)
FADD9

(Bm)
Dm

a tempo

5 speak with the tongues of the earth, if the an - gels fill my

a tempo

(2.) give a - way ev-'ry-thing I own; give my bod - y to be

a tempo

(3.) When I was a child, I talked, thought, and lived like a

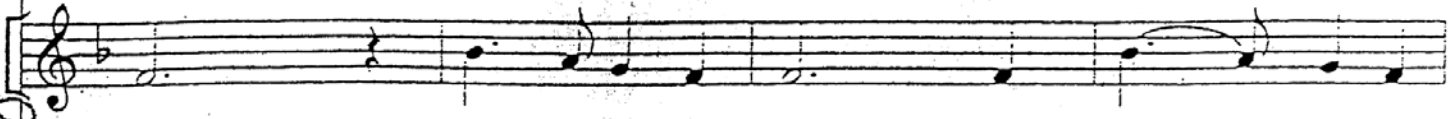
mp | mf
a tempo

(Em⁷)
Gm⁷

(G/A)
B⁷/C



mouth, yet do not have love. I am but a



burned. yet do not have love, I gain noth- ing



child. But now that I have grown. I have put these things a -

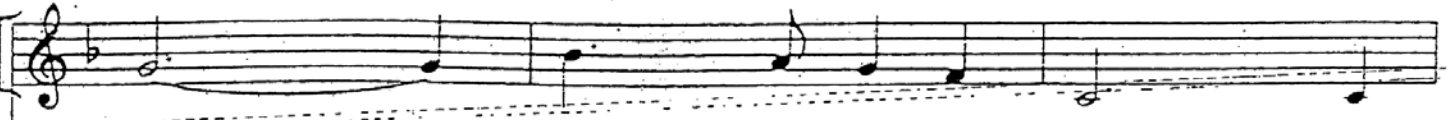


(A SUS⁴)
CSUS⁴

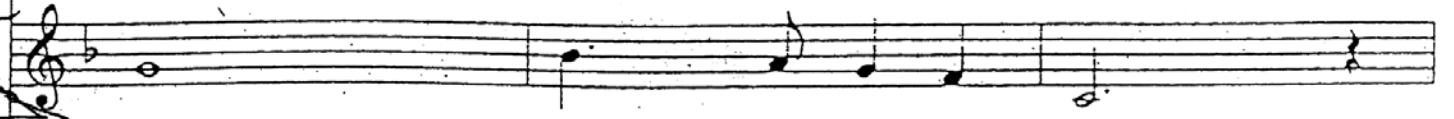
(A)
C

(DADD9)
FADD9

12



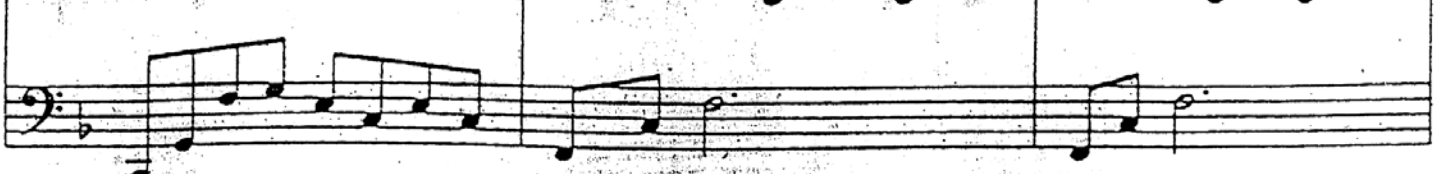
sound. If I proph - e - sy and



more. Proph - e - cies will cease,



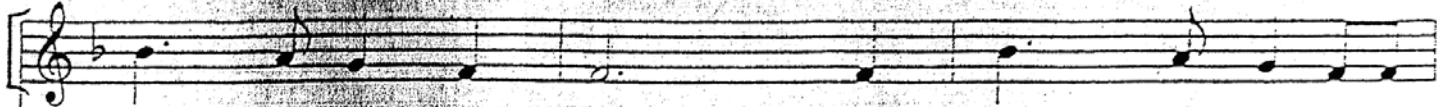
side. My know-ledge is im - per - fect now,



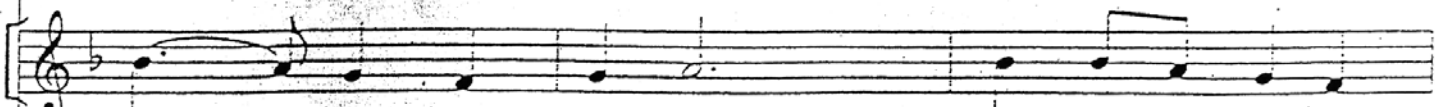
(Bm)
Dm

(Em⁷)
Gm⁷

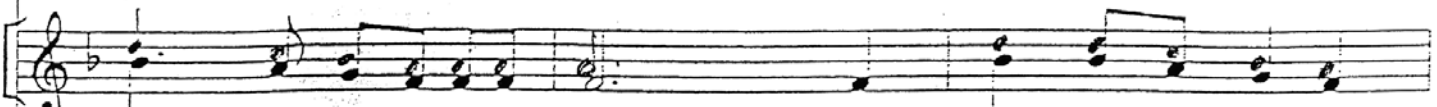
15



un - der-stand all things. if moun - tains shake by my



tongues — will be si - lent. know-ledge will be no



then I'll know as I am known. that faith, hope and love re -



(G/A)
Bb/C

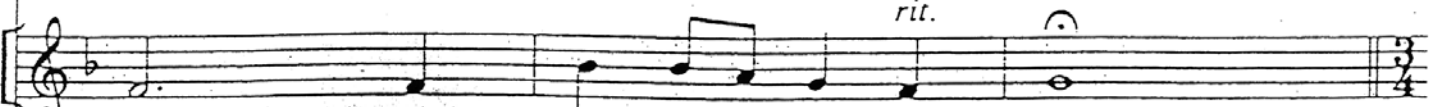
(A SUS⁴)
C SUS⁴

(A)
C

18



faith, with-out love I am noth - ing at all.



more, the par - tial will pass a - way.



main, and the great - est of these is love.



Refrain

(GADD9/B)
B \flat ADD9/D

(A/C \sharp)(GADD9/B)
C/E B \flat ADD9/D

(A/C \sharp)
C/E

(GADD9/B)
B \flat ADD9/D

(A/C \sharp)
C/E

21 S + Assembly
mp

Love is pa - tient, love is kind, love re-joic-es in the truth. — It

A *mp*

Love is pa - tient, love is kind, loves the truth.

π (B) *mp*

mp

(Em \flat /B)
Gm \flat /D

(D/A)
F/C

(Gmaj \flat)
Bbmaj \flat

(D/F \sharp)
F/A

25

bears all things, be-lieves all things, it hopes all things, en-dures all things.

div.

Bears all things, it hopes all things.

29

(Em⁷) Gm⁷ rit.

1. 2. (A SUS⁺) C SUS⁺ a tempo

(A) C rit. Solo D.S.

3. (A) C

Love 'nev - er fails. *mp* 2. If I fails. *mf* 3. †

rit. a tempo rit.

Nev - er fails. fails.

rit. a tempo rit.

1., 2. D.S. 3.

rit. a tempo rit.

33

(DADD⁹) FADD⁹ (Bm) Dm (Em⁷) Gm⁷ (GADD⁹/B) (A/C⁺) B^bADD⁹/D C/E

rit.

Background and Liturgical use: This is a setting of the ever popular passage from 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13, most often heard at wedding celebrations. This reading is also one of the appointed scriptures for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C). In this passage, Paul concentrates on the gift of love, the greatest of all the spiritual gifts, and an opportunity for all. Self sacrifice and service of others is the greatest manifestation of that love, and this kind of love will never cease to be our greatest calling as believers.

Performance: Important attentiveness to the contrast between the verses and refrain is most important, not only in terms of the meter shift, but in terms of contrast in texture and in the communication of the text. The refrain in a sense is the "teacher" or "catechist," clarifying the challenges and self-examination of the verses. The verses are best when sung by a soloist, and it is important to emphasize the harmonic texture and deliberate dissonance and resolutions of the SATB parts on the refrain. The instrumental accompaniment should be very simple, not utilizing too many instruments.