
Keep On Dreaming

from *The Painter's Dream*

Lyrics by Barry Thorson

Music by Richard Link

About

In *The Painter's Dream* (2004) we follow the adventures of a young painter named Corby. After several dreams about a treasure in a far-off land Corby heads off to seek his fortune. Along the way he encounters obstacles and challenges, as well as a beautiful young maiden, Ariana. In the end he is successful as he confronts his darkest fear and the treasure is revealed. A one-act musical, *The Painter's Dream* was premiered at the Winnipeg and Edmonton (Canada) International Fringe Festivals, garnering an Elizabeth Sterling Hayes award for excellence in visual design and music. 'Keep on Dreaming' comes around a third of the way through the show and is reprised several times.

In performance

'Keep on Dreaming' is a pep talk to oneself. Corby is debating if he should forget about following his dreams and take the easy way out by returning home or if he should 'keep on dreaming' and take the hard, scary way in search of his treasure. If you've ever had to decide between two options, you will know precisely what Corby is going through. Corby ultimately decides he's much happier following his dreams and heads out with great enthusiasm. The song opens in a reflective mood as Corby ponders going home. The vocal tone is conversational in style, tempo *rubato*; with the tempo change at bar 15, your vocal quality changes to one of excitement as you consider following your dreams. Articulation is key in this section. Work on the rhythm so your words have a natural buoyancy. At the chorus in bar 35, go for an open and *legato* sound. Let your voice soar as you sing through the long high notes. Events build to a triumphant, joyful ending which should be reflected in your vocal choices. Make sure your body and facial expressions mirror what you are expressing vocally.

Lyrics

Keep On Dreaming

from **The Painter's Dream**

I have in my hands, all that I need,
I can go back to my life.
No more adventures now to intercede.
I can go home.

I'm almost a man so I should begin to act like one,
I've grown.
Dreams are for little children, not men.
Time to go home.

This all makes sense in my tiny little head,
so why do I feel unhappy?
There is nothing here.
So why do I dread the thought of going home.

Let's say I don't go home,
but move on from here.
Who's to say the road won't be filled with fear.
Mind you fear's okay,
I've been afraid before.
To waste another day scares me even more,
I'm a few hours away from the home I know.
But a few hours closer to my treasure so I'll.

Keep on dreaming and not look back,
I will cross the desert and stay on track.
if it doesn't work, I can always go back.

To the things I know and the things I've done
I feel happy now like my life's begun.
I crossed that bridge and survived the snakes,
so it's fairly clear,

that I have what it takes to beat the odds.
And come out on top.
I swear to the Gods, nothing can stop me now.
I will cross the desert and stay on track.
Now I've found my way and I won't look back.
I won't look back.

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Gently, in 4

Cm7(add4)/Bb *mf*

I have in my hands, all that I need, I can go back to my

mp

3 *Dbmaj9/Ab*

life. No more ad-ven-tures now to in-ter-cede. I can go

Slightly faster

5 *Ab(add2)/Bb* *Aadd2*

home. I'm al-most a man so I should be-gin to

7 **Bm⁷(add4)/A** **Amaj9** **Bm⁷/A**

act like one, I've grown. Dreams are for lit - tle child - ren, not men.

9 **Bbm⁹** **Dbmaj7/Eb** **E+/D** //

Time to go home.

Rubato

11 **Dbmaj7** **Abmaj7**

This all makes sense in my ti - ny lit - tle head, so why do I feel un - hap - py? There is

13 **Dbm⁷/Gb** **Cbmaj7** **Bbm⁹**

noth - ing here. So — why do I dread the thought of go - ing

Faster, in 2

D \flat maj7(b5)/A

15

home.

f

V

Lightly, with a bounce

18

A \flat (add2) A \flat /E \flat A \flat (add2) Cm/E \flat A \flat A \flat ⁶/E \flat

Let's say I don't go home, but move on from here. Who's to

mp

21

A \flat (add2) A \flat /E \flat A \flat (add2) Cm/E \flat A \flat A \flat ⁶/E \flat D \flat maj7/A \flat B \flat m/E \flat D \flat maj7/A \flat

say the road won't be filled with fear. Mind you fear's o - kay, I've been a -

24

D \flat /E \flat B \flat m/A \flat E \flat ⁹ Gm7(b5) B \flat m/C Gm7(b5) Cm7(sus4) C7/G Gm7/C

fraid be - fore. To waste a - noth - er day scares me e - ven more, I'm a

27 Cm⁷/F Fm⁷ Bbm⁷(add4)

few hou - rs a - way from the home I know... But a few hou - rs clos - er to my

30 Dbmaj⁷/Eb Eb⁹ Fmaj⁷ Bb(add2)/F

trea - sure so... I'll... keep on dream - ing... and

33 Fmaj⁷ Bb/F C⁷ C⁷(sus4) Fmaj⁹ Fmaj⁷ Bbmaj⁹/F

not look back, I... will cross the des - ert... and

37 Fmaj⁹ Dm/F Bb/C Bbmaj⁷ Am⁷ Bbmaj⁷

stay on track. If it does - n't work, I can

cresc.

41 $A\flat\text{maj}7$ $G\flat\text{maj}7$ *f* $D\flat\text{maj}7$

al - ways go back.

45 $E\flat^{13}$ $E\flat^7$ *mf* $A\flat\text{maj}9$ $A\flat/E\flat$ $A\flat\text{maj}9$

To the things I know and the

48 $A\flat\text{maj}7/E\flat$ $A\flat$ $F\text{m}7/E\flat$ $A\flat\text{maj}9$ $A\flat/E\flat$ $A\flat\text{maj}9$ $A\flat\text{maj}7/E\flat$ $A\flat$ $F\text{m}7/A\flat$

things I've done I feel hap - py now like my life's be - gun. I

51 $D\flat\text{maj}7$ $B\text{m}/E\flat$ $D\flat\text{maj}7/A\flat$ $D\flat/E\flat$ $B\text{m}/A\flat$ $E\flat^9$ $G\text{m}7(b5)$ $B\text{m}/C$ $G\text{m}7(b5)$

crossed that bridge and sur - vived the snakes, so it's fair - ly clear, that I

54 Gm7(b5)/C C13/G Gm7(b5)/C Cm7/F Fm7

have what it takes to beat the odds. And come out on top. I

57 Bbm7(add4) Db/Eb 3 *f* A/E

swear to the Gods, noth - ing can stop me now.

Slightly broadening

60 Fmaj7 Bbmaj9/F Fmaj7

ff

63 Bb/F Fmaj9 Fmaj7 Bbmaj9/F Fmaj9

I will cross the des - ert and stay on

mf

67 Dm/F Bb/C Bbmaj7 Am7 Bbmaj7

track. Now I've found my way and I

cresc.

70 Am7 Bbmaj9 Abmaj7

won't look back. I won't

73 Gbmaj7 F

look back. _____

(opt.)