Twila's Song (Love Never Fails)

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Music: Lyle Stutzman Text: Adapted from John 16:33 and 1 Corinthians 13:8, 12-13

Voices: SATB divisi w/tenor solo A cappella In shaped notation

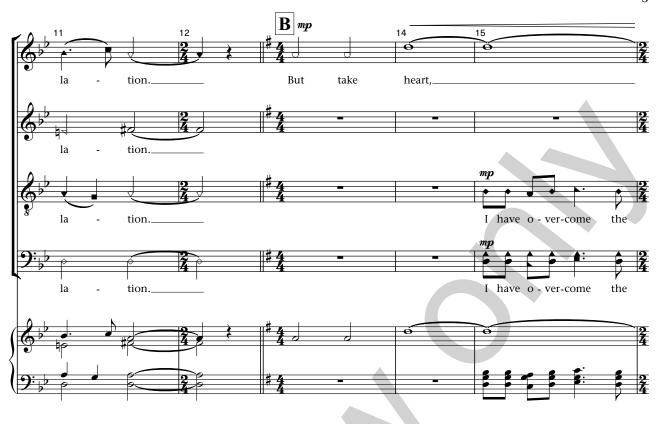


If this score was delivered digitally, permanent copies may be printed and maintained up to the total quantity purchased.

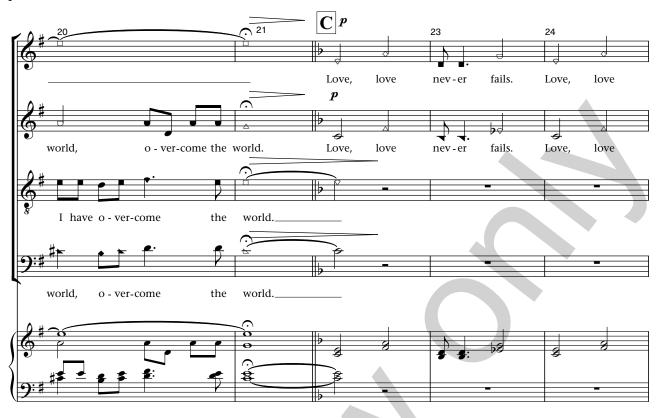
Twila's Song

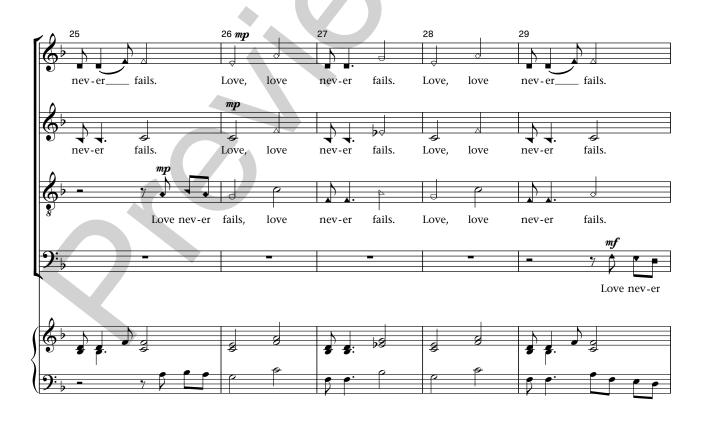
(Love Never Fails)







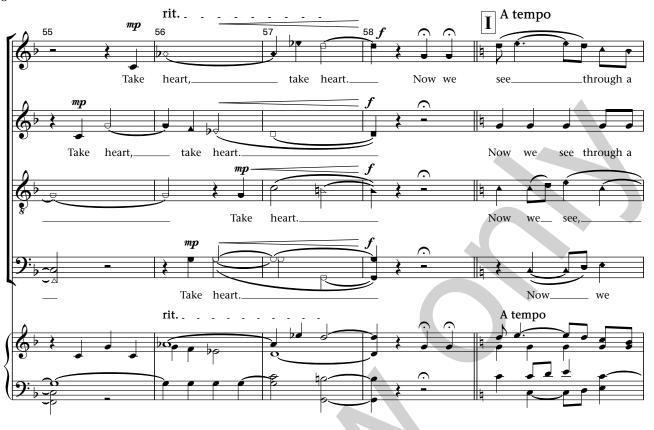














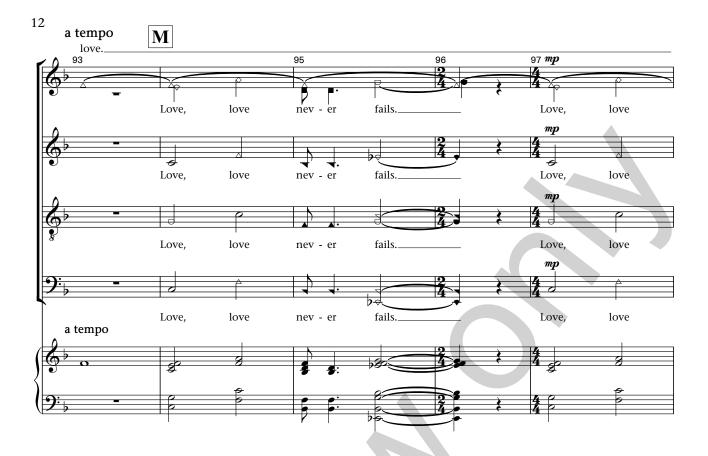
















Crazy Twila. That's who she was. She was the third of four children, four years older than me. She was diagnosed with ADHD, and she lived up to that diagnosis. She was high energy. She was intense. She was gullible. She worked crazy hard. She excelled at cooking. She enjoyed making things beautiful. She longed to be wealthy, but never was. She craved acceptance but rarely fit in.

She was missing an important thing—unconditional love. Sure, she had people in her life who truly loved her, but she seemed to have a huge void that couldn't be filled by her few truly loyal friends. She never fit into the church community where she grew up. She couldn't understand why she had to do so many things that seemed unimportant in order to please her family and church community. Her questions and lack of compliance put her at odds with many people, and she felt rejected and judged by her family and community. She craved love, and she journeyed away from God looking for love in all the wrong places.

Eventually she returned to following the Lord, but she found herself in a faith community that seemed to "love" her most when she sacrificed the most for them. And she sacrificed and worked for the church and gave money she couldn't afford to give, but unconditional love still eluded her.

In the last several years of her life, however, she found a community of women who loved her unconditionally. Through words and actions and prayer and tough love, they showed her the love of Christ in a way that she could understand. Her life wasn't perfect, but love was doing its good work in her. We saw a calmer Twila as she was mentored in that lifegiving atmosphere.

In the last few months of her battle with ovarian cancer, she left Oklahoma where she had been living and moved back to her childhood home with our parents. She may not have felt it when she was growing up, but she knew that she would be loved there. And she was. After she died, the community where she grew up gave her a profound gift of love by allowing her body to be buried in the graveyard of her forefathers beside her older sister. She wandered far, but she came home to the One Who loved her and fully knew her all along.

Lyle Stutzman