



I Believe, Help My Unbelief

WORDS BY

**Anonymous and
Lloyd Larson**

MUSIC BY

Lloyd Larson

Usage: General/Invitation

Also available:

Downloadable Accompaniment MP3 (e99/4621L)

Scripture reference:

Mark 9:24

I Believe, Help My Unbelief

From the Composer

The catalyst for this anthem comes from words discovered by an Allied soldier towards the end of World War II. They are believed to have been written by a young girl, whose name we shall never know, who died in a Nazi concentration camp. On the wall of the cell she occupied until her death she wrote the following:

*I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.
I believe in God even when He is silent.*

Like the author of these words, each of us have had moments when life has not played out the way we had scripted it in our mind; when it has felt like God was silent in our time of greatest need.

The gospel of Mark records an incident where a man brought his son to Jesus asking Him to heal the boy of some challenging and frightening health issues. The father, in his struggling faith, pleaded for Jesus to have mercy and to bring healing. Jesus assured him that everything was possible for those who believed. The father's response were words each of us have recited in one form or another when our confidence has been severely shaken: *"I believe. Help my unbelief."*

A plea to God for strength to believe, for hope in an overwhelming situation, for a glimpse of light in the midst of a dark night...these are sentiments we all share and have experienced. But our Creator invites us to come with honesty and transparency, and to lay our burdens at the feet of the One who promises to be our strength in times of need. And in so doing, we find the courage to carry on. This is the assurance that is ours as children of the living God.

—Lloyd Larson

I Believe, Help My Unbelief

3

SATB and Piano

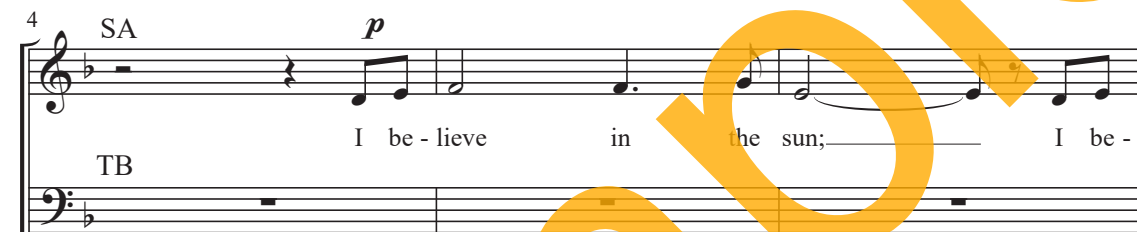
Words: **Anonymous** and
Lloyd Larson, based on
Mark 9:24

Music by **Lloyd Larson**

Pensively ♩ = ca. 76



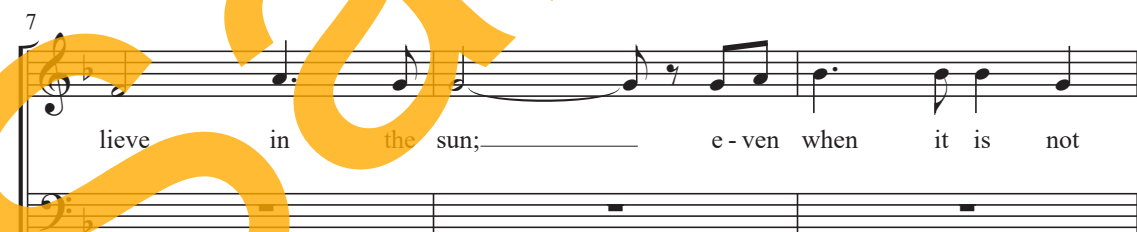
Piano introduction in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The music is marked *p* (piano). It features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.



Measures 4-5. Soprano (SA) and Tenor Bass (TB) vocal entry. The music is marked *p*. The lyrics are: "I be - lieve in the sun; I be -".



Piano accompaniment for measures 4-5. The right hand has a melodic line, and the left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment.



Measures 6-7. Vocal continuation. The lyrics are: "lieve in the sun; e - ven when it is not".



Piano accompaniment for measures 6-7. The right hand has a melodic line, and the left hand has a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

10

shin - ing, I be - lieve in the sun.

13

mp I be - lieve in love; I be -

mp

16

lieve in love; e - ven

18

when I can - not feel it, I be - lieve in_____

21

mp

I be - lieve in_____ love.

love,_____

24

mf

I be - lieve, O Lord, help my

mf

26

un - be - lief. When my life is filled with un -

This block contains the musical notation for measures 26 and 27. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. A large, diagonal orange watermark is overlaid across the page.

28

end - ing grief, when de - spair pre - vails in the

This block contains the musical notation for measures 28 and 29. It continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment from the previous measures. The large, diagonal orange watermark is still present.

30

dark of night, Lord, re - store my hope till the

This block contains the musical notation for measures 30 and 31. The piano accompaniment in measure 31 includes a 2/4 time signature change. The large, diagonal orange watermark is still present.

47

God, I be -

This system contains measures 47 and 48. It features a vocal line with a long note on 'God,' and a piano accompaniment. A large yellow watermark is visible across the page.

49

f lieve, O Lord, help my un - be - lief. When my

This system contains measures 49 and 50. The vocal line begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piano accompaniment also features a forte (*f*) dynamic. A large yellow watermark is visible across the page.

51

life is filled with un - end - ing grief, when de -

This system contains measures 51 and 52. The vocal line continues the melody. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. A large yellow watermark is visible across the page.

53

spair pre - vails in the dark of night, Lord, re -
Lord, re -

This system contains measures 53 and 54. It features a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. A large orange watermark is visible across the page.

55

store my hope till the morn - ing
store my hope till the morn - ing

This system contains measures 55 and 56. The piano part includes a change in time signature from 4/4 to 2/4 in measure 55, and back to 4/4 in measure 56. The key signature remains one flat. A large orange watermark is visible across the page.

57

light.
light. the morn - ing light.

This system contains measures 57 and 58. Measure 57 features a vocal line with the word "light." and a piano accompaniment with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. Measure 58 continues the vocal line with "light. the morn - ing light." and the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat and the time signature is 4/4. A large orange watermark is visible across the page.

59

rit.

mf

I be - lieve, help my un - be -

rit.

mf

61

mp

Slowly, freely

mp

I be - lieve, help my un - be -

lief.

Slowly, freely

mp

64

rit. poco a poco

lief.

8va

rit. poco a poco

p