

dedicated to Harry Polansky And all he does  
For New Music

When All Else Fails (2013) For choir (men & women) by Stuart Saunders Smith

1.

Women's Choir:  
55" Rest

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The time signature changes from 7/16 to 6/8, then 7/16, then 1/4, then 3/4, then 4/4, then 3/8, then 5/4, and finally 3/8. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and a circled '8' above a note.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The time signature changes from 9/16 to 5/8, then 3/8, then 7/16, then 10/16, then 2/4, then 5/8, then 6/8, then 7/16, and finally 6/8. The notation includes quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It features two endings. The first ending is marked "1st ENDING" and leads to a double bar line. The second ending is marked "2nd ENDING" and includes a glissando ("Gliss.") and a square box. The notation concludes with "Segue to (B)".

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The time signature is 13/4. The notation consists of a series of quarter notes followed by a "Grand Pause". After the pause, there is a long horizontal line representing a drone, with the text "Women's Drone begins 21''" written above it. The notation ends with a double bar line and the text "Male voices Solo Rubato" above it, followed by a few notes and the text "When All else fails".

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The time signature is 3/4. The notation includes a double bar line and the text "God!" above a note. This is followed by a section marked "MALE choir" with a slur over several notes. The notation continues with various time signatures and notes.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The time signature is 7/4. The notation includes a glissando ("Gliss.") marking above a series of notes. The time signature changes to 3/8 and then 7/8.

Handwritten musical notation on a single staff. It begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The time signature is 5/4. The notation includes a double bar line and the text "Tutti cutoff" written to the right of the staff.

Fine

Performance Directions  
Notation Directions

Sing in a Gregorian chant style.

When All Else Fails is scored for three choirs:

Two Female choirs and one male choir. Three Conductors are required.

The spatial placement of these groups is one female choir at the front, the other female choir at the back, and the male choir is in the middle of the performance space.

When All Else Fails begins with a drone chord sung by the men. The chord is held until letter (B).

The chord:



Staggered breathing will be required to hold the drone for that period of time.

At (A) Each woman's choir begins to sing conducted at different tempi, between  $\text{♩} = c. 42$  to  $\text{♩} = c. 55$ . MAKE no attempt to coordinate <sup>tempi</sup> between the choirs.

At (B) the women sing the following drone chord until the end of the composition:  
This begins after the grand PAUSE.



Notation:

$\parallel$  indicates a section without a repeat.

$\parallel$  indicates to wait until each choir is finished before making the repeat

$\overset{\circ}{\parallel}$  indicates to perform the repeat and then wait until each choir is finished before going on.