
MICHAEL SCHACHTER

TO THE RIVER CHARLES

for SATB Chorus and Concert Band

(2016)

Vocal Score

DURG MUSIC, INC.

PERUSAL SCORE

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Notes

“To the River Charles” was commissioned by the Office for the Arts at Harvard University. It was first performed for the Morning Exercises of Harvard’s 367th Commencement on May 25, 2017 at Tercentenary Theatre, Cambridge, by the Harvard University Band and Commencement Choir, conducted by Andrew Clark.

*O son’rous strains of music measured true!
The unison, the eighth, the fifth and third—
These timeless ratios speak as if new,
A resonant aliveness felt and heard.
Yet meaning full lies in beholder’s eye,
And every subject, godlike, makes their world;
While any list’ner’s spirits shall soar high,
For those with Crimson lenses, more unfurls.
Exult in melody whose arc recalls
The founding of the college at New Towne—
Another springs from local water’s crawl
Through Cantab’s heart—and certainly not down
Should bastards get you, surely fair is fair:
Resistless sweep’st thou into boundless air!*

Performance Duration

Between four and five minutes (depending on conductor’s coffee intake)

"To the River Charles"

text from the poem of the same name by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

River! That in silence windest
Through the meadows, bright and free,
Till at length thy rest thou findest
In the bosom of the sea!
Four long years of mingled feeling,
Half in rest, and half in strife,
I have seen thy waters stealing
Onward, like the stream of life.

Friends my soul with joy remembers!
How like quivering flames they start,
When I fan the living embers
On the hearth-stone of my heart!
'T is for this, thou Silent River!
That my spirit leans to thee;
Thou hast been a generous giver,
Take this idle song from me.

To the River Charles

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)

Michael Schachter (b. 1987)

Andante

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The score is in 3/2 time and B-flat major. The piano part begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a decrescendo (*dim.*) and then a piano (*p*) dynamic. The vocal parts are currently silent.



Musical score for Soprano (S.), Alto (A.), Tenor (T.), Bass (B.), and Piano (Pno.). The score is in 3/2 time and B-flat major. The vocal parts enter with the lyrics "Riv- er!" and "Riv- er!". The piano part continues with a piano (*p*) dynamic. A circled number 5 is above the Soprano staff.

9

S. Riv - er! Riv - er! that in si - lence wind - est, *cresc.*

A. Riv - er! Riv - er! that in si - lence wind - est, *cresc.*

T. Riv - er! Riv - er! that in si - lence wind - est, *cresc.*

B. Riv - er! Riv - er! that in si - lence wind - est, *cresc.*

Pno.

13

S. wind - est Through the mead - ows, bright and *poco rall. . .*

A. wind - est Through the mead - ows bright and

T. wind - est, Through the mead - ows, bright and

B. wind - est Through the mead - ows, bright and

Pno.

18 **a tempo**

S. *p*
free,

A. *p*
free,

T. *p*
free,

B. *p*
free,

Pno. *f* *p* *f* *dim.*



22 **Poco meno mosso**

S.

A.

T. *f*
Till at length thy rest thou find - est

B. *f*
Till at length thy rest thou find - est

Pno. *p* *sim.*

24

S. *f* Till at length thy rest

A. *f* Till at length thy rest

T. *p* In the bos - om of the sea!

B. *p* In the bos - om of the sea!

Pno.

27 **Andante (Tempo 1)**

S. *p* thou find - est In the bos - om of the sea!

A. *p* thou find - est In the bos - om of the sea!

T. *f* *espress.* Four

B. *f* *espress.* Four long

Pno. *f*

30 *f* *espress.* *dim.* *poco accel.* *p* *cresc.*

S. Four long years of

A. Four long long years of

T. long years, years of

B. years, years of

Pno. *dim.* *p*



34 **Poco allegro, con moto**

S. *f* *p* min - gled feel - ing, min - gled feel - ing, Half in

A. *f* *p* min - gled feel - ing, min - gled feel - ing, Half in

T. *f* *p* min - gled feel - ing, min - gled feel - ing, Half in

B. *f* *p* min - gled feel - ing, min - gled feel - ing, Half in

Pno. *fp*

38

S. *f* rest, *p* and half in strife,

A. *f* rest, *p* and half in strife,

T. *f* rest, *p* and half in strife, *f*

B. *f* rest, *p* and half in strife,

Pno. *f* *fp* *f* *f*

42

S. I have seen thy

A. *f* I have seen thy wat - ers steal - ling

T. have seen thy wat - ers steal - ling steal -

B. *f* I have seen

Pno.

45

S. wat - - ers steal - - - ing,

A. steal - ling | have

T. ling | have seen thy

B. thy wat - - ers steal - - - ing,

Pno.



47

S. steal - - ing, *dim.*

A. seen thy wat - - ers steal - ing, *dim.*

T. wat - - ers steal - - - ing, *dim.*

B. steal - - - ing, *dim.*

Pno.

poco rall. . .

50 Andante (Tempo 1)

S. *p*
On - ward, like the stream of life.

A. *p*
On - ward, like the stream of life.

T. *p*
On - ward, like the stream of life.

B. *p*
On - ward, like the stream of life.

Pno. *p sognante* *poco*

55

Pno.

59

Pno. *cresc. poco a poco*

Con moto non troppo

63

S. *f* Friends my soul with joy re - mem - bers! *dim.*

A. Friends my soul with joy re -

T. Friends my soul with

B. Friends my soul with joy re - mem - bers!

ELIOT *f* El - iot!

House Denizens

KIRKLAND *f* Kirk - land!

WINTHROP *f* Win throp!

*Each singer should break off from their regular part to sing the name of their house, thereafter returning to their part as normal

Pno. *f* *fp*

68

S. *p*
 How like quiv - 'ring flames they start,

A. *p*
 mem - bers! How like quiv - 'ring

T. *p*
 joy re - mem - bers! How like

B. *p*
 How like quiv - 'ring flames they

LOWELL *f* LEVERETT *ffff*
 Low - ell! Lev - 'rett!

House Denizens

ADAMS *f* DUNSTER *f*
 Ad - ams! Dun - ster!

QUINCY *f* MATHER *p* *lontano*
 Quin - cy! Math - er!

Pno.
 Piano accompaniment for the House Denizens, featuring chords and melodic lines in both hands.

72

S. *cresc. poco a poco*
 Quad - ded, Quad - ded, Quad - ded, When *f*

A. *cresc. poco a poco*
 flames they start,

T. *cresc. poco a poco*
 quiv - - 'ring flames they start,

B. *cresc. poco a poco*
 start, Quad - ded, Quad - ded, Quad - ded,

QUAD SOPRANOS/ALTOS

f
 Cab - ot! Cur - rier! Pfo - hol

QUAD TENORS/BASSES

f
 Cab - ot! Cur - rier! Pfo - hol

House
Denizens

Pno. *cresc. poco a poco*
f

75

S. I fan the liv - ing em - bers On the hearth -

A. *f* When I fan the liv - ing em - bers On the

T. *f* When I fan the liv - ing em - bers

B. *f* When I fan the liv - ing em - bers

Pno. *f*

78

S. stone of my heart! *rall.* 'Tis for

A. hearth - stone of my heart! 'Tis for

T. On the hearth - stone of my heart! 'Tis for

B. On the hearth - stone of my heart! 'Tis for

Pno.

81 Andante (Tempo 1) poco allargando. . .

p *f*

S. this, thou Si - lent Riv - er! That my spir - it leans to thee; Thou hast

A. this, thou Si - lent Riv - er! That my spir - it leans to thee; Thou hast

T. this, thou Si - lent Riv - er! That my spir - it leans to thee; Thou hast

B. this, thou Si - lent Riv - er! That my spir - it leans to thee; Thou hast

Pno.

85

ten. *dim.* *p*

S. been a gen - rous giv - er, Take this i - dle song from

A. been a gen - rous giv - er, Take this i - dle song from

T. been a gen - rous giv - er, Take this i - dle song from

B. been a gen - rous giv - er, Take this i - dle song from

Pno.

89

S.
me.

A.
me.

T.
me.

B.
me.

Pno.
p

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