

ARTHUR BLISS

RIVER MUSIC 1967

FOR SATB (Unaccompanied)

Words by

C. DAY LEWIS

NOVELLO

*Commissioned by the Greater London Council
for the opening of
The Queen Elizabeth Hall
on March 1st, 1967*

RIVER MUSIC 1967

Swell the broad stream of art,
Old Father Thames! Men leave their source,
Wander, and die: but on your mazy course
Through London's heart
From age to age the water-music ebbs and flows.

Sing us, old Thames, along
Your tide! Cranes, dock-gates, launches, ferries,
Lighters and tugs, great steamers, wharves and wherries
Enlarge that song.
From bank to bank, from reach to reach the water-music flows.

Changeful the river's tone—
In sunshine rippling a song without words,
Muted by fog, by rain-storm plucked, long-held chords
Beneath a moon.
From bridge to bridge, from age to age the music flows.

Men must forsake their source,
Wander and die. Only their art remains.
Honour the fluent forms, the fountainy strains
Of calm and force.
From here and now, to all time let our proud music flow!

C. Day Lewis

RIVER MUSIC 1967

C. DAY LEWIS

ARTHUR BLISS

♩ = c. 60 (in 2)

SOPRANO
Swell the broad stream of art, Old Fa - ther Thames! Swell,

ALTO
Swell the broad stream of art, Old Fa - ther Thames! Swell,

TENOR
Swell the broad stream of art, Old Fa - ther Thames! _____

BASS
Swell the broad stream of art, Old Fa - ther Thames! _____

ACCOMP!
(for rehearsal only)

broad stream of art, the broad stream of

8

art, Old Fa - ther Thames!

art, Old Fa - ther Thames!

art, Old Fa - ther Thames!

art, of art, Old Fa - ther Thames!

12

mf Men leave their source, wan - der and die:

mf Men leave their source, wan - der and die:

mf Men leave their source, wan - der and die:

mf Men leave their source, wan - der and die:

17

f but on your ma - zy course Through Lon - don's heart

f but on your ma - zy course Through Lon - don's heart

f but on your ma - zy course Through Lon - don's heart

f but on your ma - zy course Through Lon - don's heart

22

p From age to age, *mf* from age to age *mf* the

p From age to age, *mf* from age to age

p From age to age, *mf* from age to age

p From age to age, *mf* from age to age *mf* the

26

wa - ter - mu - sic ebbs and flows, ebbs and flows,

mf the wa - ter - mu - sic flows, the wa - ter - mu - sic ebbs and flows,

mf the wa - ter - mu - sic ebbs and flows, ebbs and

wa - ter - mu - sic ebbs and flows, ebbs and flows,

30

mf

ebbs and flows, — the wa-ter-mu-sic ebbs and
 ebbs and flows, — the wa-ter-mu-sic ebbs and flows,
 flows,
 et, s and flows,

34

p *poco rall.* *a tempo* *f*

flows. Sing us, old Thames,
 ebbs and flows. Sing us, old Thames, — sing
 ebbs and flows. Sing us, old Thames, — a -
 ebbs and flows. Sing us, old Thames, — a - long,

p *poco rall.* *a tempo*

38

mf

a - long Your tide! — Sing us, old Thames.
 us, a - long Your tide! — Sing us, old
 long, a - long Your tide! —
 a - long Your tide! —

mf

43

f ben marcato

Cranes, _____

f ben marcato

Cranes, _____

Thames. _____ *(flowing)*
p sempre

B I *p sempre*
Sing us, old Thames, _____ sing us, sing us, old

B II *p sempre*
Sing us, old Thames, _____ sing us, sing us, old

Sing us, a - long - your tide! _____ Sing us, sing us a -

f ben marcato

p sempre

47

dock-gates, _____ launch-es, _____ fer - ries, _____ Enlarge that song, _____

dock-gates, _____ launch-es, _____ fer - ries, _____ Enlarge that song, _____

Thames, _____ sing us, _____ sing _____ us, Enlarge that song, sing _____

Thames, _____ sing us, _____ sing us, En - large that song, _____ sing _____

long Your tide! _____ Sing us, _____ sing _____ us, En - large that song, _____ sing _____

52

S I *(flowing)*
p sempre

S II *p sempre (flowing)*

p sempre

us. Light-ers and tugs, —
I & II *f ben marcato*

us. Light-ers and tugs, — great

p sempre

f ben marc.

f ben marcato

f

sing us, old Thames, — sing us, —

sing us, old Thames, — sing us, —

sing us a - long Your tide! — Sing us, —

great steam-ers, wharves and wher-ries — En - large that song,

steam - ers, — wharves — and wher-ries — En - large that song,

f

I & II

En-large that song. — from reach to reach — the

En-large that song. — from reach to reach —

En-large that song. — From bank to bank from reach to reach —

En-large that song. — From bank to bank from reach to reach —

64

wa - ter - mu - sic flows, — the mu - sic flows, — the

the wa - ter - mu - sic flows, — the mu - sic

the wa - ter - mu - sic flows, — the

the wa - ter - mu - sic

68

mu - sic flows, — the mu - sic flows. *senza rall.*

flows, — the mu - sic flows.

mu - sic flows, — the mu - sic flows.

flows, — flows, — the mu - sic flows. *senza rall*

72

SOPRANO

mf lightly

Changeful the riv-er's tone- in sun - - shine_ rip- pling a song_ with-out

mf lightly

77

words, a song, a song, rip - pling a song with-out

ALTO *mf lightly*

Changeful the riv-er's tone in sun - - shine_ rip- pling a song_ with-out

83

S I words, in sun - shine, in sun - shine

S II words, in sun - shine

A words,

T *mf sustained*

Mu - ted by fog, by

B *mf sustained*

Mu - ted by fog, by

mf

89

rip - pling a song with-out words, —

rip - pling a song with-out words, —

mf Change-ful the riv-er's tone— Change-ful the

rain - - storm plucked, — long - -

rain - - storm plucked, — long - -

96

I & II mf

rip - - pling a song, — change - ful, —

riv-er's tone— rip - pling a song with-out words, — rip - pling,

held chords — Be - neath —

held chords — Be - neath —

101

Changeful the riv - er's tone-
 Change-ful the riv - er's tone- the riv -
 a moon, a moon.
 a moon, a moon.

106

poco rall a little slower
 From bridge to bridge, from
 er's tone- From bridge to bridge, from
 from
 from
 from
 from

112

age to age the mu - sic flows, the
 age to age the mu - sic flows,
 age to age the mu - sic flows,
 age to age the mu - sic flows, the mu -

119

rall. dim. *pp*

mu - sic flows, flows, flows, flows.

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

126

Tempo I *f* *p*

Men must for-sake their source, Wan - der and die

f *p*

Men must for-sake their source, Wan - der and die

f *p*

Men must for-sake their source, Wan - der and die

f *p*

Men must for-sake their source, Wan - der and die

Tempo I *f* *p*

133

mf *p* a little deliberate

On - ly their art re - mains, on - ly their art

mf *p*

On - ly their art re - mains, on - ly their art.

mf *p*

On - ly their art re - mains, on - ly their art.

mf *p*

On - ly their art re - mains, on - ly their art, their art.

mf *p* a little deliberate

137

19626

a tempo (flowing)
mf *cresc.* *f*
 Hon-our the flu - ent forms, — hon-our the foun - tain-y strains — Of
mf *cresc.* *f*
 Hon-our the flu - ent forms, — hon-our the foun - tain-y strains — Of
mf *cresc.* *f*
 Hon-our the flu - ent forms, — hon-our the foun - tain-y strains — Of
mf *cresc.* *f*
 Hon-our the flu - ent forms, — hon-our the foun - tain-y strains — Of

dim. *p* *f*
 calm, — of calm — and — force. —
dim. *p* *f*
 calm, — of calm — and — force. —
dim. *p* *f*
 calm, — of calm — and — force. —
dim. *p* *f*
 calm, — of calm — and — force. —

mf From here and now, from here and now, — to all — time — *f*

mf From here and now, from here and now, — to all — time — *f*

mf From here and now, from here and now, — to all — time — *f*

mf From here and now, from here and now, — to all — time — *f*

mf From here and now, from here and now, — to all — time — *f*

148

a little slower
mp cresc. let, — let our proud — mu - sic flow, *f*

mp cresc. let, — let our proud — mu - sic flow, *f*

mp cresc. let, — let our proud — mu - sic flow, *f*

mp cresc. let, — let our proud — mu - sic flow, *f*

mp cresc. let, — let our proud — mu - sic flow, *f*

a little slower
mp cresc. let our proud mu - sic flow, *f*

153

poco a poco dim. let our proud mu - sic flow, *poco a poco dim.*

let — our proud mu - sic flow, *poco a poco dim.*

let our proud mu - sic flow, *poco a poco dim.* flow,

let our proud mu - sic flow, *poco a poco dim.* flow,

poco a poco dim.

158

flow, flow, flow, flow, flow, flow, flow, flow,

165

in slower tempo *senza rall.*

let our proud mu - sic flow. let our proud mu - sic flow. let our proud mu - sic flow. let our proud mu - sic flow.

in slower tempo *senza rall.*

let our proud mu - sic flow. let our proud mu - sic flow. let our proud mu - sic flow. let our proud mu - sic flow.

173