

Rosa Elliott

What Have You Done to Your Rivers?

three orchestral songs for mezzo-soprano and baritone

Full score
2018

SAMPLE SCORE

I

What is the River?

II

The Ripples and the Silence Sing Together

III

Lamentations in the Natural Songs

Instrumentation

transposing score

2 Flutes (II = piccolo)
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in Bb
2 Bassoons

2 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
Trombone
Bass Trombone

Timpani

3 Percussionists:

Percussion 1 =
Marimba - G2 to E5 range

Percussion 2 =
Vibraphone - F3 to F6 range (Mvt I & II)
Tubular Bells - G#4 to E5 range (Mvt III)

Percussion 3 =
Log Drum - Low (Mvt I)
Suspended Cymbals and Triangle - Medium (Mvt II)
Rain Stick (Mvt III)

Mezzo-Soprano Solo
Baritone Solo

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Double bass (with C extension)

These orchestral songs were written for and performed by Resonance in Christchurch, 2018.

Text

The texts are excerpts taken from the following poems:

Blanche Baughan: from *A Bush Section*

On, ever onward and on!
The hills remain, the logs and the gully
remain,
Changeless as ever, and still;
But the River changes, the River passes,
Nothing else stirring about it,
It stirs, it is quick, 'tis alive!

'What is the River, the running River?
Where does it come from?
Where does it go?
Listen! Listen!...

Ursula Bethell: from *By the River Ashley*

That bridge from the city, that was Waimakariri,
Greater than our River Ashley, the playground.

The rivers, over and over again the rivers
They hasten to you, look up them, in the riverbeds.
From the soft dark forest they come down,
Or from the snows, leaving their patterns
Of many terraces they come hastening down
To where by archipelagos or silver,
Lizard twists of azure, tranced lagoons,
We hear the ripples and the silence sing together
With the small soft sighing of the tussock,
And the flax spears' rattle, and, might be, a seabird's call.
These were the harmonies, splashed often now
By sudden hue of alien weed, still beautiful.

Too late we hear, too late, the undertone
Of lamentations in the natural songs-
What have you done with my mountains?

What have you done with my forests?
What have you done to your rivers?
Too late.

What Have You Done to Your Rivers?

Blanche Baughan, Ursula Bethell

Movement I What is the River?

Rosa Elliott

A

Adagio ♩ = 60 *dry and barren*

The score is for a full orchestra and vocal soloists. The instruments listed are Flute 1, Flute 2 (Piccolo), Oboe 1, Oboe 2, Clarinet 1 in Bb, Clarinet 2 in Bb, Bassoon 1, Bassoon 2, Horn 1 in F, Horn 2 in F, Trumpet 1 in C, Trumpet 2 in C, Trombone, Bass Trombone, Timpani, Marimba, Vibraphone, Log Drum, Mezzo-Soprano Solo, and Baritone Solo. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of Adagio (♩ = 60). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The music is marked 'dry and barren'. The vocal soloists enter with the lyrics: 'On, ev-er on-ward, and on! The hills re-main, the logs and the gul-ly re-'. The score includes various dynamics such as *pp*, *p*, and *pp still, narrator-like*. Performance instructions include *senza vib.* and *sul tasto*. A large 'SAMPLE SCORE' watermark is overlaid on the page.

accel.

B

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

p

vib.
p like a ripple

vib.
p

vib.
p

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F Hn. 1

F Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

p

p

p

pp

M-S. Solo

mf

But the Ri-ver chan - ges the Ri - ver pas - ses.

Bar. Solo

less vib.

main _____ Change-less as ev - er, and still; _____

B

accel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pp

vib, ord.
pp

vib, ord.
pp

vib, ord.
pp

vib, ord.
pp

Movement II
The Silence and the Ripples Sing Together

A
3/4 ♩ = 50 Gently flowing

Fl. 1
Fl. 2 Flute
Ob. 1 solo mp
Ob. 2
Bb Cl. 1
Bb Cl. 2
Bsn. 1 solo p
Bsn. 2 p
F Hn. 1 con sord. p
F Hn. 2 con sord. p
C Tpt. 1 con sord. p
C Tpt. 2 con sord. p
Tbn. con sord.
B. Tbn. con sord. p
Timp.
Perc. 1 mp
Perc. 2
Perc. 3 TRIANGLE SUS. CYMBAL
M-S Solo
Bar. Solo
A
3/4 ♩ = 50
Vln. I pp
Vln. II pp
Vla. pizz. mf
Vc. pizz. mf
Cb. pizz. mf

B

83

2/4 3/4

Fl. 1 *pp*

Fl. 2 *pp*

Ob. 1

Bb Cl. 1 *pp*

Bb Cl. 2 *pp*

Bsn. 1 *pp*

Bsn. 2 *pp*

F Hn. 1 *pp*

F Hn. 2 *pp*

C Tpt. 1 *pp*

C Tpt. 2 *pp*

Tbn. *pp*

B. Tbn. *pp*

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Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *pp*

M-S. Solo *mf* *peacefully*

The ri-vers o-ver and o-ver ri - vers has - ten to you Look up them in the ri-ver beds, from

Bar. Solo *mf*

The ri-vers o-ver and o-ver ri - vers has - ten to you Look up them in the ri-ver beds, from

B

2/4 3/4

Vln. I *pizz.* *p*

Vln. II *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

Movement III
Lamentations in the Natural Songs

20

12/4 $\text{♩} = 40$ Mournfully

Fl. 1 Flute

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

F Hn. 1

F Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 TUBULAR BELLS (l.v) mp p mp (l.v) (l.v)

Perc. 3 RAIN STICK mp Like a recitative p

M-S. Solo These were the har-mo-nies, splashed of-ten now by sud-den hue_ of al-ien weed, still beau-ti-ful.

Bar. Solo

Vln. I $\text{♩} = 40$ $\text{♩} = 70$ pp p

Vln. II pp p

Vla. pp p

Vc. pp p

Cb. pp p arco

SAMPLE SCORE

B

139

Fl. 1 *p* *mp* *p*

Fl. 2 *p* *mp* *p* To Picc. Piccolo

Ob. 1 *p* *mf*

Ob. 2 *p* *mp*

Bb Cl. 1 *p* *mf* *p*

Bb Cl. 2 *p* *mp*

Bsn. 1 *p* *mp* *p*

Bsn. 2 *p* *mp*

F Hn. 1 *p* *mf* *p* senza sord.

C Tpt. 1 *p* *mf* *p* senza sord.

Tbn. *p* *mf* *p* senza sord.

B. Tbn. *p* *mf*

Perc. 1 *p* *mp*

Perc. 2 (l.v) *mf*

Perc. 3

Bar. Solo *mf* Mournfully
Too late we hear, too late,

B

Vln. I *p* *mf*

Vln. II *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mf*

Cb. *p* *mf*