

Singing on the River

3-part song for mixed voices

By Aisling O’Gorman ©2007

Inspiration: This piece was inspired by a workshop I led for a choir which took place in a building on a bridge over the river Shannon in Limerick - a literal experience of singing on the river. It is also inspired by the river itself and the soothing effect of its presence in our lives.

Structure: The piece is structured around two complimentary vocal melodies with a harmony on the upper line, weaving around each other like currents in a stream creating an unusual call and response style pattern.

Notes on performance:

Aim for a strong opening volume. After that the interpretation of volume is at the discretion of the conductor or group. Consider building up the parts rather than bringing all three in at once. The words may be altered to fit with particular landscape e.g. singing on the Liffey etc. Also, the ‘wash our cares away’ section (bars 8 and 9) can be continuously repeated and used as the basis for an improvisation. Using the piece in this way each conductor/group is encouraged to create their own arrangement of the piece and it is encouraged that the piece not be performed in exactly the same way on each performance.

Although written as a vocal piece it can be played on instruments also if desired, which again can be approached creatively by the conductor though I would suggest having a mixture of singers and instrumentalists in this case. Having a group of suitable pitched instruments to loop the 'washing our cares away' section while some or all of the singers sing parts of the melodies separately or improvise vocally would work well, for example.

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Words & Music by Aisling O'Gorman

Soprano *mf* Sing-ing on the ri - ver___ sing-ing with you___ Sing-ing on the ri - ver___ how

Alto *mf* Sing-ing on the ri - ver___ sing ing with you___ Sing ing on the ri - ver___ how

Tenor *f* We're sing-ing on the ri-ve-r blue___ so won't you

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S. ___ do you do?___ Sing-ing on the ri - ver___ sing - ing all day

A. ___ do you do?___ Sing ing on the ri - ver___ sing - ing all day

T. tell me how do you do___ o___ o? We're gon-na (clap) sing the day a - way

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S. Sing - ing on the ri - ver wash our cares a - way___ oh wash our

A. Sing - ing on the ri - ver wash our cares a - way___ oh wash our

T. ___ hey___ hey!___ Wash - in' our cares a - way

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S. cares a - way___ oh wash our cares a - way___

A. cares a - way___ oh wash our cares a - way___

T. Wash - in' our cares a - way Wash - in' our cares a - way