

Gabriel Jackson

On The Bridge Over The Narrow River

for four solo voices (ATTBar)

Preview File Only

ON THE BRIDGE OVER THE NARROW RIVER was commissioned by the Orlando Consort with funds provided by the RVW Trust and was first performed by the Orlando Consort at Queen's University, Belfast, on April 27th 1994

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Duration: 10 minutes

Triplum: On the bridge over the narrow river
Were gathered our husbands, our sons,
Placing their faith in friends
they had learned at school with.
We, disbelieving or screaming our grief,
The old, the young, the weak,
Were herded on trucks and carted out, livestock,
As the men on the high bridge
Collapsed, throats slit or swiftly bullet-bored,
Toppling slowly over the parapet.

Stopping high in another land,
Crushed and foul, we feared our next fate,
But breathed deep in the starry air.
You, who were not our neighbours, brought
Water and blankets, bread and long-stored apples,
From your village by the mountain highway.
You made us eat, wash, warm ourselves a little,
Bringing us to men and women once more,
Giving us strength to follow that winding through the valley bed,
To watch men float, frozen, toward the sea.

Duplum: O Lord, Author of Peace,
Ruler of Princes, Protector of the Innocent,
Why standest thou afar off, O Lord?
Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?
How long wilt thou forget us O Lord, for ever?
How long wilt thou hide thy face from us?
O God, Forsake not them that seek thee.
defend us in the assaults of our enemies O Lord,
Deliver us from the power of our enemies' might
And save us from bloody men.
Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace,
And be not still.

Tenor: Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
But only thou, O Lord.

Richard George Elliott

On The Bridge Over The Narrow River

Text: Richard George Elliott

Music: Gabriel Jackson

♩ = 60 **Solemn, declamatory**

always without vibrato

Alto *f*
O Lord, _____

Tenor 1 *f*
O Lord, _____

Tenor 2 *f*
O Lord, _____

Baritone *f*
O Lord, _____

5

Au - - - - - thor of Peace, _____

Au - - - - - thor of Peace, _____

Au - - - - - thor of Peace, _____

6

Ru - - - - - ler of Prin - ces, _____

Ru - - - - - ler of Prin - ces, _____

Ru - - - - - ler of Prin - ces, _____

8

Pro - - - - - tec - tor

Pro - - - - -

Pro - - - - -

9

of the in no - cent,

of the in - no - cent,

of the in - no - cent,

-tec - tor of the in - no - cent,

15 **calm**

mp On the

mp Why stand - - - - -

mp there

Be - - - - - cause

20

bridge o - ver the nar - row ri - ver
 is none o - ther
 is none

24

Were gath - est
 that fight
 fight

29

ered our hus - bands, our sons,
 thou a - far off, O Lord?
 teth for us,
 teth for us,

34 *mf* Plac - ing their faith

mf Why hid - - - - -

mf But on - - - *mf* on - - -

39 in

ly thou, O

ly thou, O

43 friends They had learned

est thou thy self

Lord.

Lord. Be - - - - - cause

48

at
in times
there is none
is

52

school with
of trou - - ble? How long
o - ther that
none

58

We, dis - - be - liev - ing or
fight
fight - - - - - teth

62

scream - ing our grief, The old, the young
for us, But
for us,

66

the weak Were herd - ed on trucks and cart -
wilt thou for - get us O Lord,
on - ly
on - ly

70

- ed out, live - - -
for e - ver?
thou, O Lord.
thou, O Lord.

75

- stock,

mf As the men on the high bridge

mf How long

79

col - lapsed,

83

throats slit or swift - ly bul - let - bored,

wilt

87

topp- ling slow - - ly
 thou hide thy

91

o - ver the pa - ra - pet. 5
 face from us?

declamatory

96

f
 O God,
f
 O God,
f
 O God,
f
 O God,

more intense

100 *(f)*

For - sake not them that

For - sake not them that

più f

Stop - ping high in a - no - ther land, crushed

(f)

Be - - - cause there

104

seek

seek

and foul, we feared

is none

108

our next fate But

our next fate But

our next fate But

(f)

o - - - - - ther that

112

breathed deep in the starry air.

fight eth

115

thee. thee. ry air.

for us,

hushed, sustained

119

p

p

You, who were not our neighbours, brought

p

You, who were not our neighbours, brought

p

You, who were not our neighbours, brought

poco pp

De-fend us in the as-

124

Wa - ter and blan - kets, bread, saults

129

and long - stored ap - of our e -

133

ples From your vil - lage by the moun - tain high - ne - mies, O Lord,

138

- - way. You made us
 - - way. You made us
 - - way. You made us
 De - li - ver us from the power

143

eat, wash, warm our - selves a lit - tle,
 eat, wash, warm our - selves a lit - tle,
 eat, wash, warm our - selves a lit - tle,
 of our e - ne - mies' might And save

148

Bring - ing us to men and wo -
 Bring - ing us to men and wo -
 Bring - ing us to men and wo -

152

- men once more, - - - - - y men. - - - - - us from blood - - - - - y men.

157

mp poco a poco crescendo

Giv - - - - - ing

Keep

Keep

But

161

us strength to fol - - - low

not thou si - - lence,

not thou si - - lence,

on - - - - - ly

166

that wind

thou,

170

O

173

ing through the valley bed,

God: hold not

God: hold not

Lord: hold not

177

To watch_ men_ float_ fro - - -

thy peace,

thy peace,

thy peace,

181

zen_ to - ward the_ sea.

p sub. And be not still.

p sub. And be not still.

And be not still.

187

Be cause there is none other that fighteth for us, but on - ly thou O_ Lord.

mf Be cause there is none other that fighteth for us, but on - ly thou O_ Lord.

mf Be cause there is none other that fighteth for us, but on - ly thou O_ Lord.