## Gabriel Jackson

## On The Bridge Over The Narrow River

for four solo voices (ATTBar)

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

Que view ville out of the control of

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,

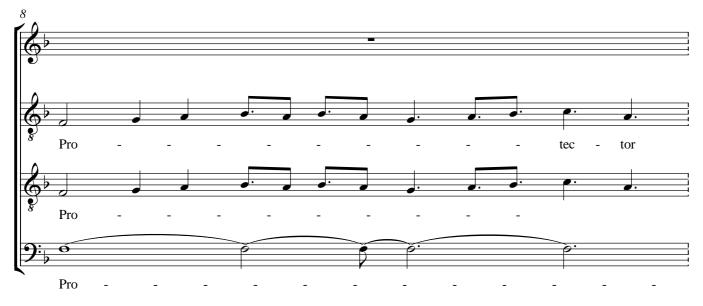
And be not still.

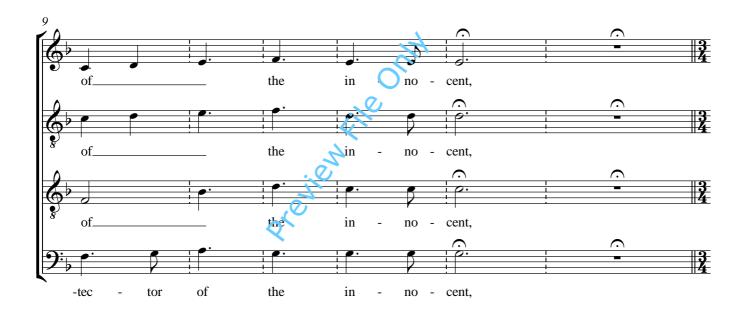
*Tenor:* Because there is none other that fighteth for us,

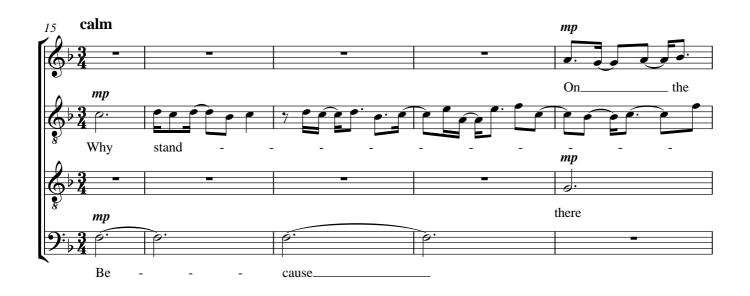
But only thou, O Lord.

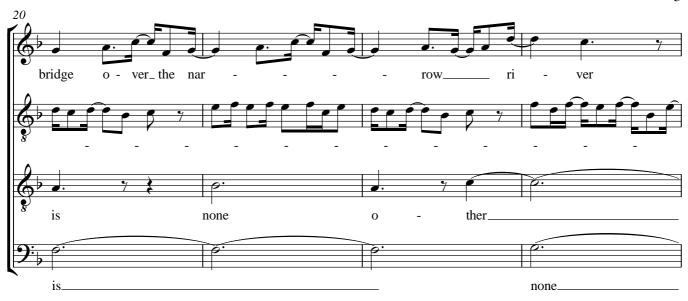
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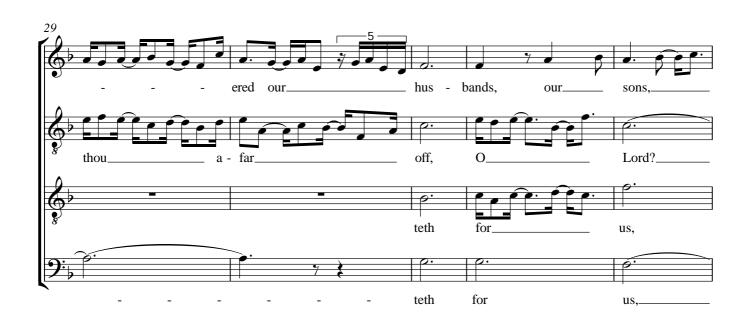




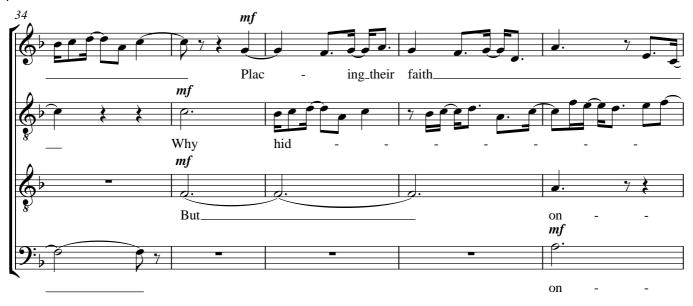




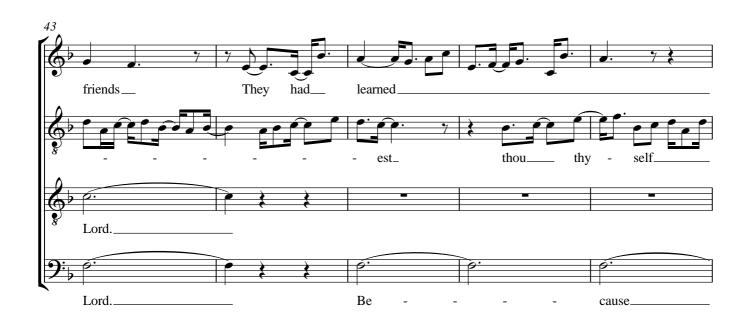


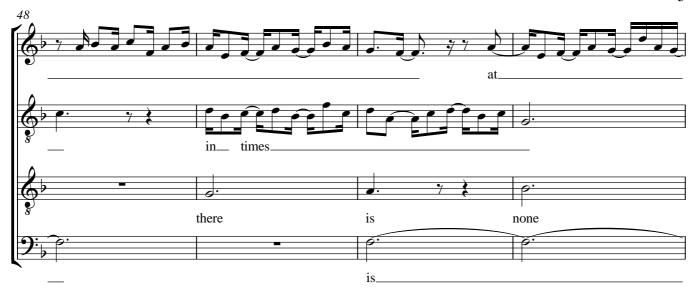


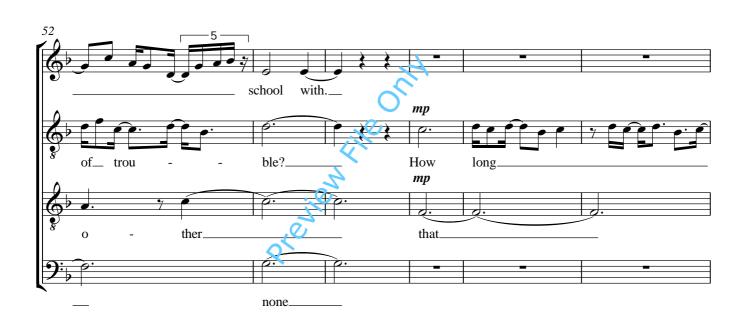




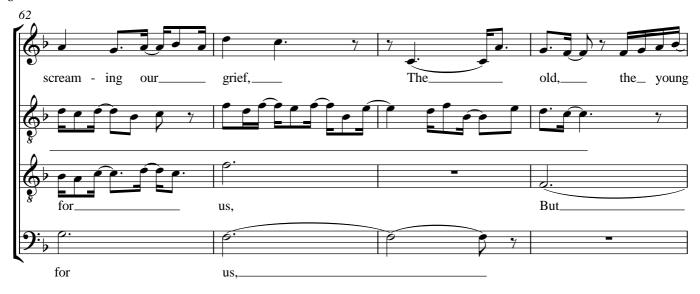


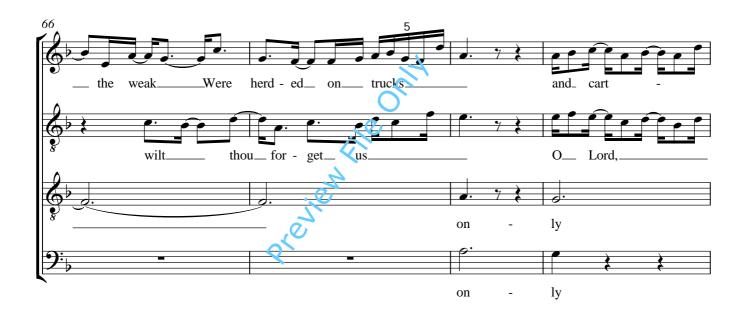


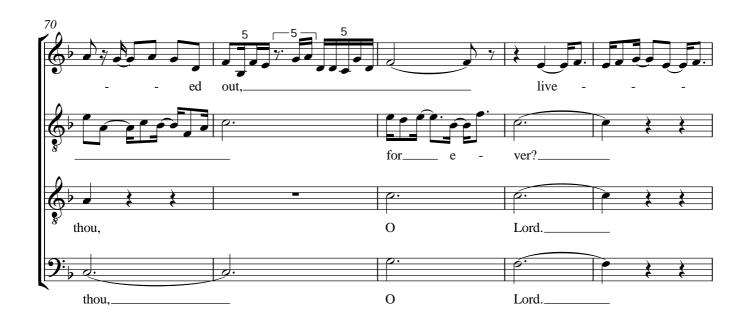


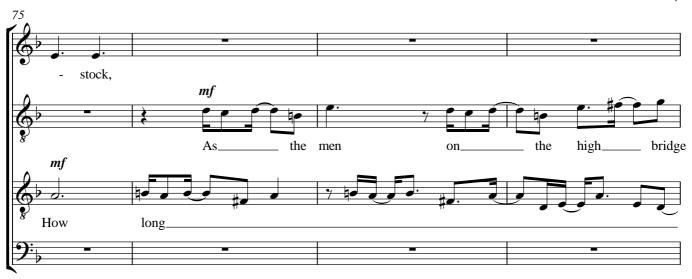




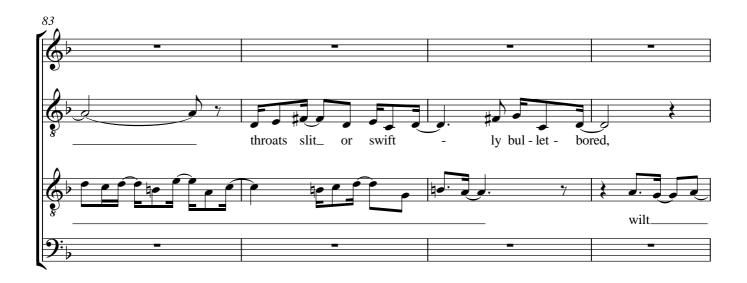


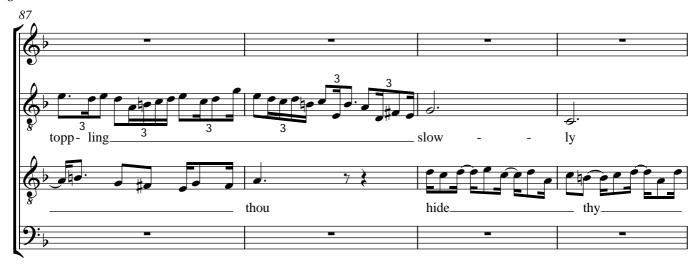




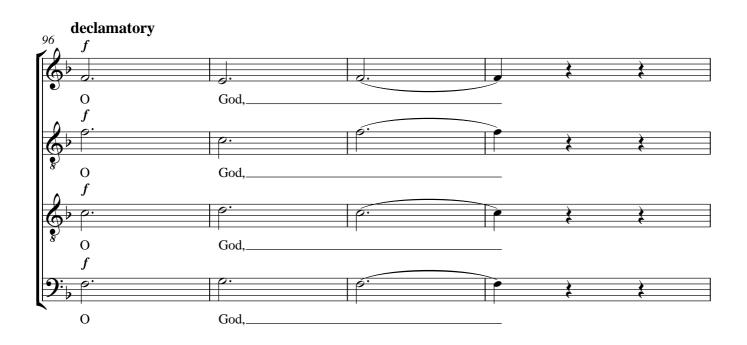


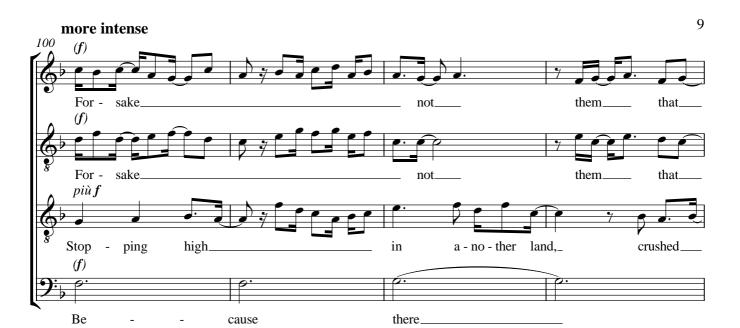


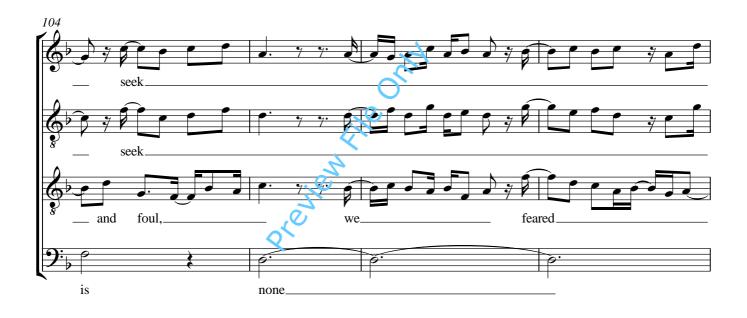


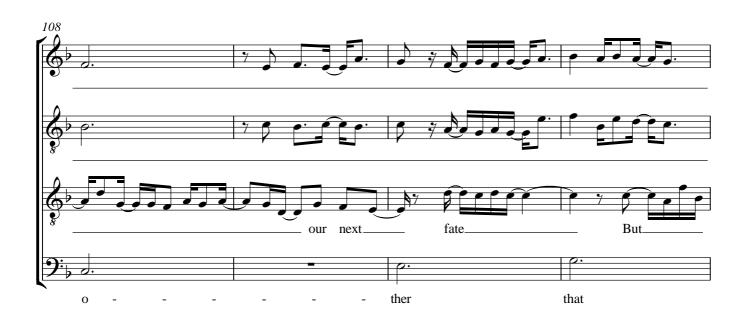


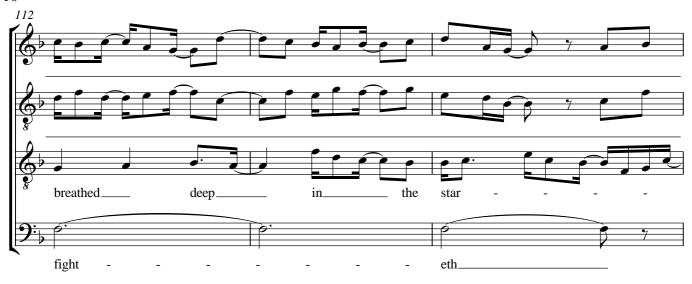


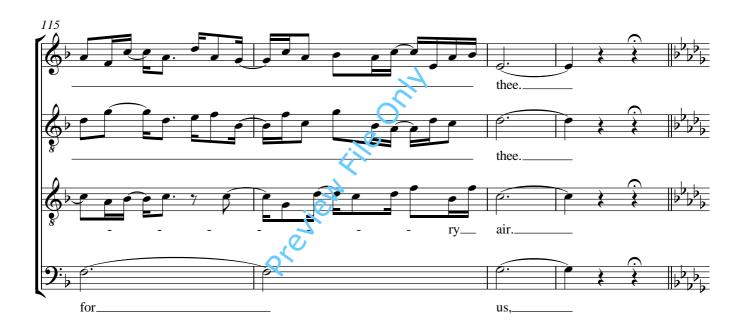


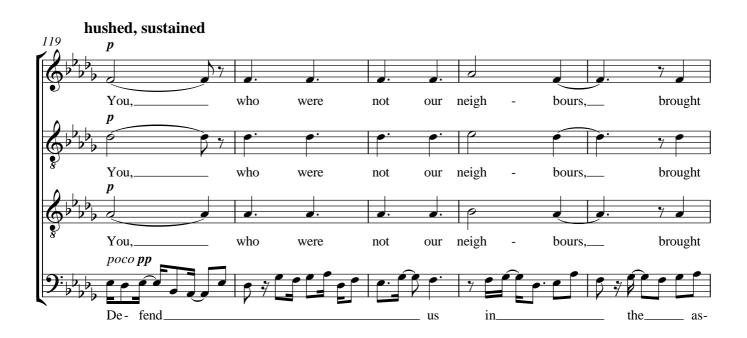


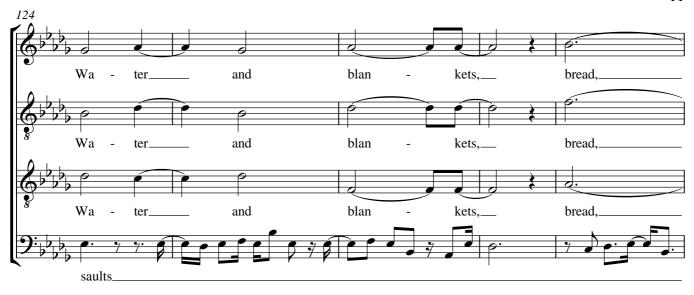


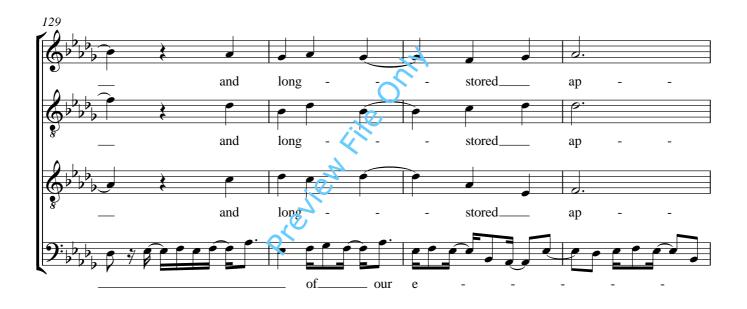




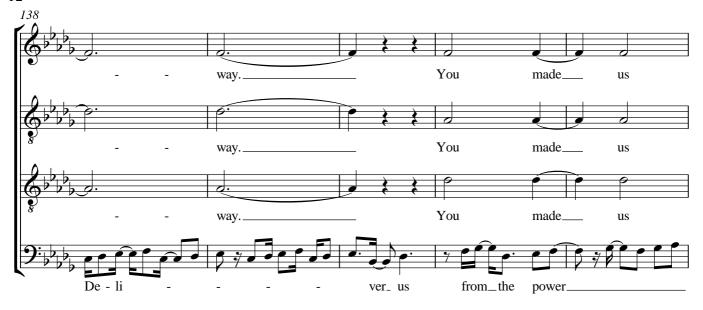


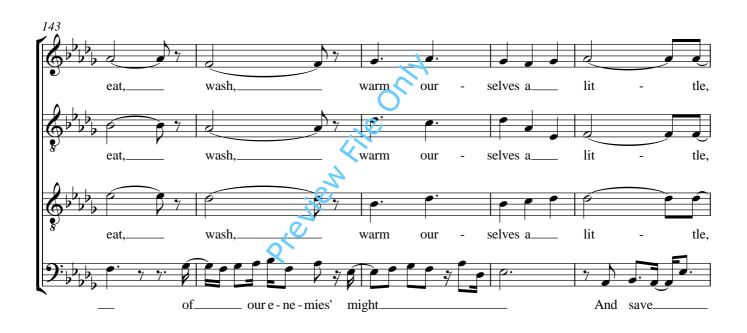


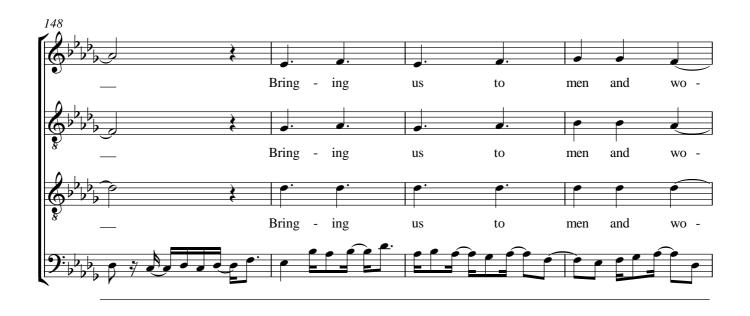


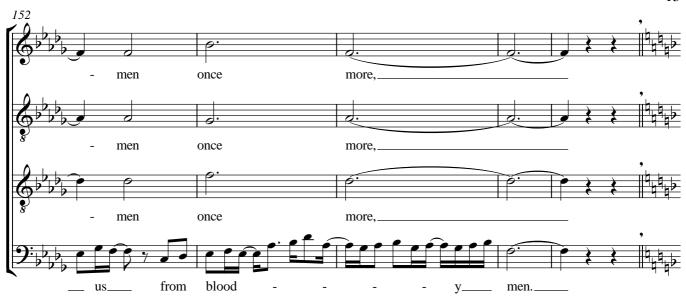




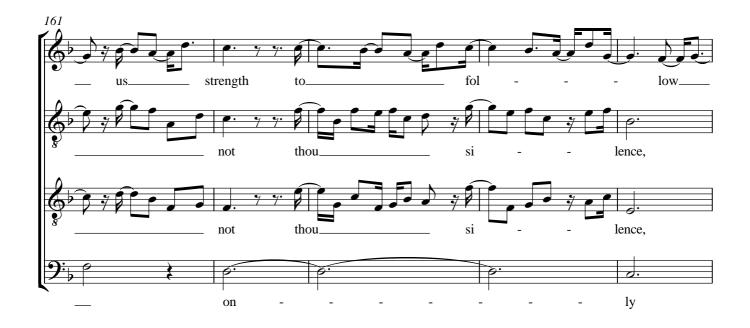




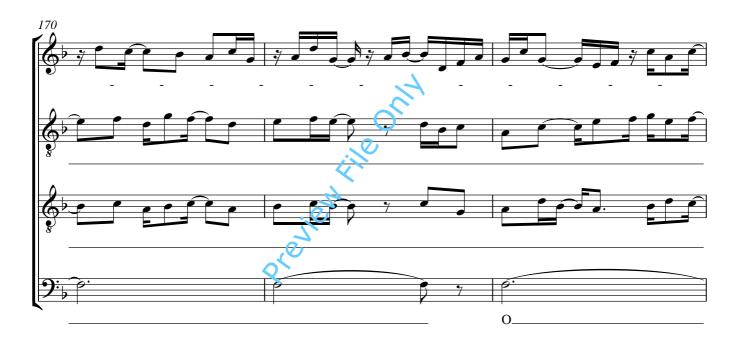


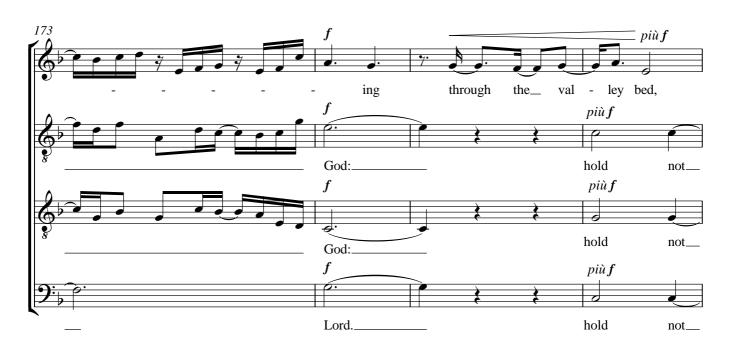




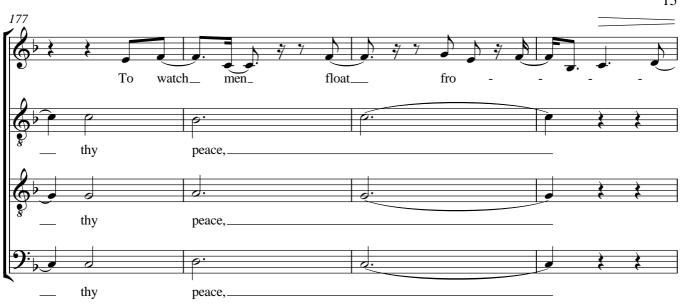


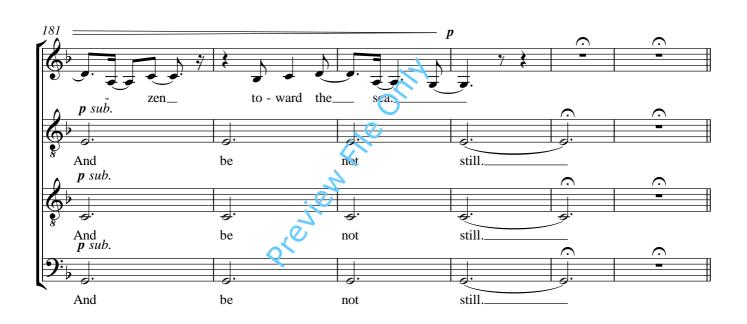


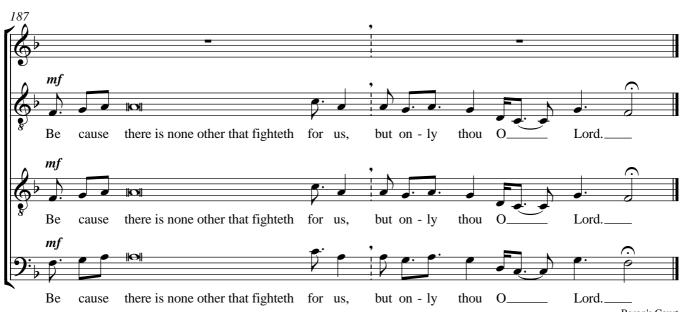












Baron's Court January - March 1994