

Bell Tower

For TTBB choir with piano

Duration ca. 5'30"

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimon

WORDS BY

Rainer Maria Rilke



Bell Tower

Let This Darkness Be A Bell Tower

*by Rainer Maria Rilke (Sonnets to Orpheus II, 29)
translated by Joanna Macy & Anita Barrows (used by permission)*

Quiet friend who has come so far,
feel how your breathing makes more space around you.
Let this darkness be a bell tower
and you the bell. As you ring,

what batters you becomes your strength.
Move back and forth into the change.
What is it like, such intensity of pain?
If the drink is bitter, turn yourself to wine.

In this uncontainable night,
be the mystery at the crossroads of your senses,
the meaning discovered there.

And if the world has ceased to hear you,
say to the silent earth: I flow.
To the rushing water, speak: I am.

Program note

Bell Tower is a potent reminder of the meaning of pain and uncertainty in our world — and a call for us not to run from this, but to live with it, because it doesn't stay static. Rather, if we let it, it can serve as a gateway to loving and living fearlessly. Mirroring Rilke's text and the journey of healing it describes, the music gradually unfolds from a gentle and almost eerily quiet opening to a powerful, impassioned, and roaring finale!

Bell Tower

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Reflective ♩ = 100 *with lots of rubato* A *pp*

T
8
Qui - et
pp
Qui - et

Pno.
pp
Ped. * Ped. * Ped.

7
T 1
8
friend, _____ qui - et friend, _____

T 2
pp
8
friend, _____ qui - et friend, _____

B
8
friend, _____ qui - et friend, _____

Pno.
* Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

Bell Tower

4

13

T 1 *p*
qui - et friend who has come so far,

T 2 *p*
qui - et friend so far,

B *p*
qui - et friend so far,

Pno.

Leg. * *Leg.*

19

T 1 *p*
feel how your breath-ing, feel how your

T 2 *p*
feel how your breath-ing, feel how your breath-ing,

B *p*
feel how your breath-ing, feel how your

Pno.

* *Leg.* * *Leg.* * *Leg.* *

Bell Tower

6

B

T 1 *p* *>* *** *repeat individually until this line ends*
Let this dark-ness be a bell _____
**a few voices add the upper line after m. 40 downbeat*

T 2

B dark - ness _____ be a bell tow'r _____

Pno.

38

T 1 *fade & begin to drop out*

T 2 *fade & begin to drop out*

B _____ and you the bell _____

Pno.

Bell Tower

43 *mf*

T 1
8 Let this dark - ness be a bell tow'r and you the

T 2
8 Let this dark - ness be a bell tow'r and you the

B
mf
Let this dark - ness be a bell tow'r

Pno.

47 *cresc.*

T 1
8 bell and you the bell. As you ring

T 2
8 bell and you the bell. As you ring

B
and you the bell and you the bell As you

Pno.

Bell Tower

8

51 C *f*

T 1
As you ring As you ring As you ring, what bat-ters you be - comes your strength. —

T 2
— As you ring As you ring, what bat-ters you be - comes your strength.

B 1
ring — Ah, As you ring, be - comes your

B 2
cresc. and you the bell — Ah, As you ring, be -

Pno.
f

55

T
— As you ring, — as you ring. —

B 1
strength. As you ring, — As you ring,

B 2
comes your strength — as you ring, as you ring, —

Pno.

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The score will continue on the following page.

Bell Tower

10

67 *cresc.* *ff rit.* *mf*

T 1
turn your - self in - to wine.

T 2
turn your - self turn your - self in - to wine.

B 1
turn your - self turn your - self in - to wine.

B 2
turn your - self in - to wine.

Pno. *cresc.* *ff rit.* *mf*

D *a tempo* *p*

T 1
Let this dark-ness be a bell tow'r

T 2
p a tempo
Let this dark - ness Let this

B 1
p a tempo
Let this dark - ness Let this

B 2
a tempo *pp* repeat individually (on pitch), vary rhythm
[Let this darkness be a bell tower]

Pno. *a tempo*

Bell Tower

78 *mf*

T 1 And you the bell the bell

T 2 dark - ness Let this dark - ness be a

B 1 dark - ness Let this dark - ness be a

B 2 Let this dark - ness be a

Pno. *mf*

85

T 1 you the bell you the bell

T 2 bell tow'r a bell tow'r In this

B 1 bell tow'r a bell tow'r

B 2 bell

Pno.

Bell Tower

12

E

T 1
Ah _____ be the

T 2
un - con-tain - a - ble night, _____ be the

B 1
Ah un - con-tain - a - ble night, Let this

B 2
un - con-tain - a - ble night, un - con-tain - a - ble night, this

Pno.

93
T
8 my - stery at the cross - roads of your sen - ses, the mean - ing dis - co - vered

B 1
dark - ness _____ be a bell _____ tow'r the

B 2
dark - ness _____ be a bell be a bell tow'r the

Pno.

97 *rit. cresc.* **f** **F** *a tempo*

T
8 there. And if the world has ceased to

B 1
rit. cresc. **f** *a tempo*
mean-ing dis - co - vered there. And if the world has ceased to

B 2
rit. cresc. **f** *a tempo*
mean-ing dis - co - vered there. And if the world has ceased to

Pno.
cresc. *rit.* *a tempo*

101

T 1
8 hear you, the world has ceased to hear you say to the si - lent earth: I

T 2
8 hear you, the world has ceased to hear you say to the si - lent earth: _____

B 1
hear you, the world has ceased to hear you say to the si - lent earth: _____

B 2
hear you, the world has ceased to hear you say to the si - lent earth: _____

Pno.

Bell Tower

110

T 1
I flow, I flow, I

T 2
I flow, I flow,

T 3
flow, I flow, I flow,

B 1
I flow, I flow, *ff* To the rush - ing wa - ter, —

B 2
wa - ter, — To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, —

B 3
I flow, I flow, I

Pno.
cresc.

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The score will continue on the following page.

119

T 1
flow, _____ I flow, _____ I

T 2
I flow, _____ *ff* To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____

T 3
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____

B 1
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____

B 2
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____

B 3
flow, _____ I flow, _____ I

Pno.
sim.

The musical score is for a piece titled "Bell Tower" on page 17, starting at measure 119. It features six vocal parts: Tenors 1, 2, and 3 (T 1, T 2, T 3) and Basses 1, 2, and 3 (B 1, B 2, B 3). The piano accompaniment (Pno.) is written in the bottom system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "flow, _____ I flow, _____ I" for T 1 and B 3; "I flow, _____ To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____" for T 2; "To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____" for T 3, B 1, and B 2. The piano part features a melodic line with triplets and slurs, marked *sim.* (sostenuto). The bass line consists of sustained chords. A large watermark "FreeScore" is visible across the page.

Bell Tower

18

123
8

molto rit.
cresc. ***fff***

T 1
flow, I am.

molto rit.
cresc. ***fff***

T 2
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: I am.

molto rit.
cresc. ***fff***

T 3
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: I am.

molto rit.
cresc. ***fff***

B 1
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: I am.

molto rit.
cresc. ***fff***

B 2
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: I am.

molto rit.
cresc. ***fff***

B 3
flow, I am.

molto rit.

Pno. ***fff***