

Bell Tower

For SATB choir with piano

Duration ca. 5'30"

MUSIC BY

Katerina Gimón

WORDS BY

Rainer Maria Rilke



KATERINA GIMON
composer

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

Rainer Maria Rilke
translated by Joanna Macy and Anita Barrows

Katerina Gimon

Reflective ♩ = 100 *with lots of rubato* A

Soprano (S): [Musical staff with rests]

Alto (A): [Musical staff with rests]

Tenor (T): [Musical staff with rests]

Bass (B): [Musical staff with rests]

Piano (Pno.): [Musical staff with accompaniment, including rubato markings and dynamic markings like *pp*]

Lyrics (English):
S: [rests]
A: [rests]
T: friend,
B: friend,
A: qui - et friend,
T: qui - et friend,
B: friend, qui - et friend,

Lyrics (Latin):
T: Qui - et
B: Qui - et

Bell Tower

4

13 *pp* *p*

S
qui - et friend so far,

A
qui - et friend who has come so far,

T
8
qui - et friend so far,

B
qui - et friend so far,

Pno.
13 *Red.* * *Red.*

19 *p*

S
feel how your breath-ing, feel how your

A
feel how your breath-ing, feel how your

T
8
feel how your breath-ing, feel how your

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

Pno.
19 * *Red.* * *Red.* * *Red.* *

Bell Tower

molto rit.

24 *p* *mf*

S breath - ing, breath - ing space a - round you, *molto rit.*

A breath - ing, breath - ing space a - round you. *molto rit.*

T 8 breath - ing, feel how your breath - ing makes more space a - round you. *molto rit.*

B breath - ing space a - round you. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Red. * *Red.* * *Red.* * *Red.*

29 *a tempo* *p* *mp* *mp*

S a round - you. *repeat individually until this line ends*

A *a tempo* *mp* Let this

T *mp* *a tempo* a round - you. *mp* Let this

B *a tempo* *mp* Let this

Pno. *a tempo* *mp* *Red. ad lib.*

Bell Tower

6

B

34

S

A

T

B

Pno.

dark - ness — be a bell tow'r

dark - ness — be a bell tow'r

Let this dark-ness be a bell

p

repeat individually until this line ends

*a few voices add the upper line after m. 40 downbeat

38

S

A

T

B

Pno.

and you the bell

and you the bell

fade & begin to drop out

fade & begin to drop out

Bell Tower

43 *mf* 3 3 7

S Let this dark - ness be a bell tow'r and you the

A Let this dark - ness be a bell tow'r and you the

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

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

Pno. *mf* 3 3

47 *cresc.*

S1 bell and you the bell. As you ring

S2 bell and you the bell. As you ring

A bell and you the bell. As you

T and you the bell and you the bell.

B and you the bell and you the bell.

Pno. *cresc.*

Bell Tower

8

51

f C

S1 As you ring As you ring As you ring, what bat-ters you be - comes your strength. _____

S2 _____ As you ring As you ring, _____ be - comes your strength. _____

A ring _____ Ah, As you ring, be - comes your

T *cresc.* and you the bell _____ *f* As you ring, what bat-ters you be - comes your strength. _____

B *cresc.* and you the bell _____ *mf* Ah, As you ring, be -

Pno. *f*

55

S1 As you ring, as you ring. _____

S2 As you ring, As you ring, _____

A strength. As you ring, as you ring, _____

T As you ring, As you ring, _____

B comes your strength. _____ Ring, _____

Pno.

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The score will continue on the following page.

Bell Tower

10

ff rit.

mf

67 *cresc.*

S1 turn your - self in - to wine.

S2 turn your - self turn your - self in - to wine.

A turn your - self turn your - self in - to wine.

T 8 turn your - self in - to wine.

B turn your - self in - to wine.

ff rit. *mf*

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

D

71

a tempo

p

S Let this dark - ness Let this

A *a tempo* *p* Let this

T 8 *a tempo* *p* Let this dark-ness be a bell tow'r.

B *a tempo* *pp* repeat individually (on pitch), vary rhythm

[Let this darkness be a bell tower]

Pno. 71 *a tempo*

Bell Tower

78 *mf*

S1 dark - ness _____ And you the bell _____ the bell

S2 dark - ness _____ the bell _____ the bell

A dark - ness _____ *mf* Let this dark - ness _____ be a

T *mf* Let this dark - ness _____ be a

B Let this dark - ness _____ be a

Pno. *mf*

85

S1 you the bell _____ you the bell _____

S2 you the bell _____ you the bell _____ In this

A bell _____ tow'r _____ a bell _____ tow'r

T bell _____ tow'r _____ a bell _____ tow'r

B bell _____

Pno.

Bell Tower

12

E

89

S1 Ah _____ be the

S2 un - con-tain - a - ble night, _____ be the

A Ah _____ Let this

T 8 Ah un - con-tain - a - ble night, _____ Let this

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

Pno.

93

S my - stery at the cross - roads of your sen - ses, _____ the mean - ing dis - co - vered

A dark - ness _____ be a bell _____ tow'r the

T 8 dark - ness _____ be a bell be a bell tow'r the

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

Pno.

Bell Tower

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

S there. And if the world has ceased to

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

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

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

Pno. *cresc.* *rit. 3* **f** *a tempo*

101

S1 hear you, the world has ceased to hear you say to the si - lent earth: I

S2 hear you, the world has ceased to hear you say to the si - lent earth:

A hear you, the world has ceased to hear you say to the si - lent earth:

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

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

101

Pno.

Bell Tower

14

105

S1
flow, _____ I flow, _____ I flow, _____

S2
I flow, _____ I flow, _____ I flow, _____

A1
_____ I flow, _____ I flow, _____ I

A2
I flow, _____ I flow, To the rush - ing *ff*

T
_____ I flow, _____ I flow, _____

B1
_____ I flow, _____ I flow, _____

B2
_____ I flow, _____ I flow, _____

Pno.
105

The musical score is for the piece 'Bell Tower' on page 14. It features seven vocal parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor (T), Bass 1 (B1), and Bass 2 (B2), along with a piano accompaniment (Pno.). The score begins at measure 105. The vocal parts have lyrics: 'flow, _____ I flow, _____ I flow, _____'. The Alto 2 part has the lyrics 'I flow, _____ I flow, To the rush - ing' and is marked with a forte dynamic (*ff*). The piano accompaniment consists of two staves with complex rhythmic patterns, including many triplets. A large watermark 'FreeSaiScore' is overlaid on the page.

110

S1
I flow, I flow, I

S2
I flow, I flow,

A1
flow, I flow, I flow,

A2
wa - ter, To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter,

T
I flow, I flow, I

B1
I flow, *ff* To the rush - ing wa - ter,

B2
I flow, I flow, I

Pno.
110

This page has been intentionally left blank.

The score will continue on the following page.

119

S1
flow, _____ I flow, _____ I

S2
I flow, _____ *ff*
To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____

A1
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____

A2
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____

T
flow, _____ I flow, _____

B1
To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____

B2
flow, _____ I flow, _____ I

Pno.
119
sim.

The musical score is for the piece 'Bell Tower' on page 17. It features seven vocal parts: Soprano 1 (S1), Soprano 2 (S2), Alto 1 (A1), Alto 2 (A2), Tenor (T), Bass 1 (B1), and Bass 2 (B2), along with a piano accompaniment (Pno.). The score begins at measure 119. S1 and B2 have the lyrics 'flow, _____ I flow, _____ I'. S2 has the lyrics 'I flow, _____' followed by 'To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____' with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. A1 and A2 have the lyrics 'To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____'. T has the lyrics 'flow, _____ I flow, _____'. B1 has the lyrics 'To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: To the rush - ing wa - ter, _____'. The piano accompaniment features a 'sim.' (sostenuto) marking and consists of a series of triplets in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand.

Bell Tower

18

123 *molto rit. cresc.* *fff*

S1 flow, I am.

molto rit. cresc. *fff*

S2 To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: I am.

molto rit. cresc. *fff*

A1 To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: I am.

molto rit. cresc. *fff*

A2 To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: I am.

molto rit. ff cresc. *fff*

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

molto rit. cresc. *fff*

B1 To the rush - ing wa - ter, speak: I am.

molto rit. cresc. *fff*

B2 flow, I am.

123 *molto rit.* *fff*

Pno.