

Robert Piéchaud

The River

after Henry David Thoreau's
A Week on the Concord & Merrimack Rivers

for wind quintet

(2015, rev. 2016)

with the conclusive song
“All Things are Current Found”
for mezzo soprano,
and its alternate
instrumental version

Concert pitch score



Instrumentation

Flute: flute in C / flute contralto in G / piccolo

Oboe : oboe / English horn

Clarinet : clarinet in B $\flat$ / clarinet piccolo* in E $\flat$ / bass clarinet (down to concert pitch low B $\flat$)

French Horn (double)

Bassoon (“basson” or “fagott”)

Voice** (mezzo soprano)

Score sounds as written (only piccolo sounds an octave higher).

All literary excerpts, including the poem “All Things are Current Found”, come from Henry David Thoreau’s *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* (1849).

Duration: ca. 15’

Commisioned by and dedicated to the Kalais Wind Quintet (Reykjavík).

Premiered at Dark music Days Festival on Jan. 30, 2016, by Kalais Wind Quintet and Jill Alessandra McCoy, mezzo soprano.

Revised in June 2016.

(*) The piccolo clarinet is only required in the first movement. The B $\flat$ clarinet can also be used instead.

(**) The vocal version of the last movement (All Things are Current Found) is preferably to be performed. Use the instrumental version only if no singer is available!

I - A short departure celebration

Preludio recitativo. Poco elegiaco (♩ = 46)

Corno in Fa *molto libero*
fp *pp* *non troppo p* *mf* *pp*

(*) In this prelude, use natural, uncorrected sounds ("in re") whenever possible.

Cor. *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

Cor. (harm. gliss., always *cantabile*)
ppp *f* *poco* *pp*³

Cor. *mf* *f* *pp possibile* *ppp* **Perdendosi**
 sons d'écho (da lontano) ^[1]_[2]



"Some village friends stood up upon a promontory
 lower down the stream to wave us a last farewell..."

Scherzino. Presto giocoso e leggerissimo (♩ = 108)

1
 Flauto *pp*
 Oboe *pp*
 Clarinetto in Sib *pp*
 Corno in Fa
 Fagotto

I - A short departure celebration

8

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor.

Fag.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.



17

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor.

Fag.

pp

p

Muta in flauto piccolo

I - A short departure celebration

23

Picc.

Ob.

Cl. Si $\flat$

Cor.

Fag.

pp

Measure 23: Piccolo and Oboe are silent. Clarinet in B-flat plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern. Cor Anglais plays a descending eighth-note scale. Bassoon is silent. Dynamics range from pp to mf.



28

(più scherzando)

Fl. piccolo

Picc.

Ob.

Cl. Si $\flat$

Cor.

Fag.

mp

mf

p

Muta in clarinetto piccolo in Mi $\flat$

Measure 28: Piccolo plays a melodic line with a crescendo. Oboe is silent. Clarinet in B-flat is silent. Cor Anglais plays a single note. Bassoon plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern. Dynamics range from p to mf.

I - A short departure celebration

35

Picc.

Oh.

Cl. Mi $\flat$

Cor.

Fag.

pp

p subito

p subito

42

Picc.

Oh.

Cl. Mi $\flat$

Cor.

Fag.

f

pp agitato

pp agitato

Cl. picc. in Mi $\flat$

pp agitato

(quasi gliss.)

f

f

I - A short departure celebration

50

Picc.

Ob.

Cl. Mi $\flat$

Cor.

Fag.

mf

mf

mf

7



56

Muta in flauto grande

Picc.

Ob.

Muta in clarinetto in Si $\flat$

Cl. Mi $\flat$

Cor.

Fag.

p

p

I - A short departure celebration

61

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Sib

Cor.

Fag.

mp

poco a poco cresc.

poco a poco cresc.

==

65

Fl. grande

Ob.

Cl. in Sib

Cor.

Fag.

mp

poco a poco cresc.

mf (in rilievo)

mf

mf

mf

I - A short departure celebration

69

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor.

Fag.

f

pp

(quasi gliss.)

f

pp

f

pp

p (in rilievo)

poco a poco cresc.

f

pp

pp

74

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor.

Fag.

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

p

cresc.

cresc.

pp

mp cresc.

I - A short departure celebration

79

Fz.

Ob.

Cl. Si^b

Cor.

Fag.

f

molto

f

molto

f

molto

f

ancora più cresc.

f

molto

85

Senza tempo

Recitativo

Adagio (♩ = 66)

Fl.

G.P.

pp (ma ben in rilievo)
[Shall we gath - er by the riv - er...]

Ob.

ppp

Cl. Si b

ppp

quasi niente

Cor.

(sforz.)

fz (cuivré) p

con sord.

ppp

quasi niente

Fag.

ppp

quasi niente

93 **Encora più lento, con grande precisione ritmica** (♩ = 42)

Fl. *non vibr.*
ppp *poco*

Ob. *mf molto espress. ed in rilievo*
[Where bright an - - gels' feet]

Cl. Si b *pppp* 3 5 3 3 7 *poco*

Cor. *senza sord.*
ppp *poco* 3 *ppp* *poco* *ppp*

Fag. *ppp* *poco* *ppp* 3

Fl. *ppp* 3 5 3 *poco*

Ob. *have trod...* *molto*

Cl. Si b 3 3 5 3

Cor. *poco*

Fag. 5 3 3 5 3 *poco* *espr.*

I - A short departure celebration

100 Muta in flauto alto

Fl. $\emptyset$ (niente)

Ob. $\emptyset$ (niente)

Cl. Si $\flat$ $\emptyset$ (niente)

Cor. $\emptyset$ (niente)

Fag. *ppp* *dolcissimo e legatissimo*

100 101

II - The current of our dreams

“Gradually the village murmur subsided,
and we seemed to be embarked on the placid
current of our dreams...”

Andante con moto (♩ = ♩ = 84)

Flauto contralto in Sol

Oboe

Clarinetto in Sib

Corno in Fa

Fagotto

Mettere il sordino

pp espr.

(*ppp* possibile, sempre dolcissimo) (*)
(**)

Fl. Sol

Ob.

Cl. Sib

Cor.

Fag.

3

ppp sempre dolcissimo (*)

(*) : The delicate ostinato *pp-ppp* dynamics must be carefully balanced amongst the instruments.
(**): Circular breathing should be ideally used in this section to match the very long phrases.

II - The current of our dreams

6

Fl. Sol

pp espr.

3

3

ppp sempre dolcissimo

Ob.

Cl. S $\flat$

Cor.

Fag.

7

5

3



9

Fl. Sol

Ob.

Cl. S $\flat$

Cor.

Fag.

Ø

II - The current of our dreams

12

Fl. Sol

Ob.

Cl. Sib

Cor.

Fag.

con sord.

pp espr.

ppp sempre dolcissimo

7

5

3

3



15

Fl. Sol

Ob.

Cl. Sib

Cor.

Fag.

pp espr.

Muta in clarinetto basso

II - The current of our dreams

18

Fl. Sol

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

(*ppp* possibile, sempre dolcissimo)

Clar. basso

ppp

21

Fl. Sol

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

ppp

pp espr.

II - The current of our dreams

24

Fl. Sol.

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

3

3

ppp sempre dolcissimo

27

Fl. Sol.

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

senza sord.

pp espr.

3

3

ppp sempre dolcissimo

II - The current of our dreams

30

Fl. Sol.

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

poco

7

33

Fl. Sol.

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

pp espr.

3

3

5

7

5

3

II - The current of our dreams

36

Fl. Sol.

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

3

5

3

con molta delicatezza

pp espr.

con molta delicatezza

ppp

con molta delicatezza

ppp

39

Fl. Sol.

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

5

3

ppp sempre dolcissimo

poco

ppp

poco

II - The current of our dreams

42

Fl. Sol

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

poco

poco

45

Fl. Sol.

Ob.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

Ca - lan - do

(Muta in flauto grande)

(Muta in clarinetto in Sib)

quasi niente

pppp

pppp

III - Night birds (Thoreau's nightmare)

Score (concert pitch)

"One sailor was visited in his dreams this night by the Evil Destinies, and all those powers that are hostile to human life..."

Senza tempo **Misterioso** (♩ = 84)

Flauto **G.P. (*)**

Oboe **[quasi acc.]** **(**) 3** **pp** **5** **3** **f**

Clarinetto in Sib

Corno in Fa

Fagotto **(**) [quasi acc.]** **pp** **3** **5** **3** **f**

==

Senza tempo ♩ = 69 **[quasi ritard.]** **Senza tempo**

Fl. **G.P.** **(*) ppp** **3** **3** **pppp possibile** **G.P.**

Ob.

Cl. Sib **ppp** **3** **3** **pppp**

Cor.

Fag.

(*): The G.P. duration should be long enough, and somewhat unpredictable throughout the movement (silence between night bird songs and calls, and other nocturnal sounds...)

(**): The character of this movement being mostly homorhythmic, the best precision is required.

Lo stesso tempo (♩ = 69)

Senza tempo

G.P.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor.

Fag.

(***)

mf

ppp

molto (cuivré)

(***) pitch bend fluctuations around E♭.

Presto (♩ = ♩)

12

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor.

Fag.

pp

f

pp

mf

mp

pp

III - Night birds (Thoreau's nightmare)

14 Senza tempo Più lento (♩ = 112) Poco ritard.

Fl. G.P. pp senza espr. ppp quasi niente

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor. ppp dolcissimo quasi niente

Fag. ppp dolcissimo quasi niente

Senza tempo

Deciso e ruvido (♩ = 104)

Senza tempo

Fl.

G.P.

ff

Ob.

ff

Cl. Si b

ff

Cor.

ff

Fag.

ff

Mettere il sordino

III - Night birds (Thoreau's nightmare)

Come prima (♩ = 69) **Senza tempo** **Presto giocoso** (♩ = 84)

24

Fl. *ppp* *pppp* **G.P.**

Ob. *ppp* *pppp* *pp*

Cl. Si b *pp* *ppp* *pp*

Cor. *pp* *pp* *pp*

Fag. *ppp* *pp*

con sord.

ppp *al niente* *pp*

possibile

27

Fl. *pp*

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor. *senza sord.*

Fag.

III - Night birds (Thoreau's nightmare)

Lento unisono (♩ = 46)

29

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor.

Fag.

Senza tempo

G.P.

[senza sord.]

pp

p dolce

p dolce

p dolce

p dolce

p dolce

pp

p dolce

32

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Si b

Cor.

Fag.

3

3

3

3

3

III - Night birds (Thoreau's nightmare)

34

Fl.

più p *pp*

Ob.

più p *pp*

Cl. Si $\flat$

più p *pp*

Cor.

più p *pp*

Fag.

più p *pp*

Senza tempo

G.P. (breve)

2/4



36

Come a l'inizio (♩ = 84)

Fl.

Ob.

[quasi acc.] *pp* (non cresc.)

3

Cl. Si $\flat$

Cor.

(dal niente) $\emptyset$ *pp*

[quasi acc.]

Fag.

pp (non cresc.)

3

Senza tempo
(c.a. 5 sec.)

2/4



IV - Mist and fog

(4/4 ♩ = 46)

IV - Mist and fog

“In the morning the river and adjacent country were covered with a dense fog, through which the smoke of our fire curled up like a still subtler mist...”

Adagio, molto sereno (♩ = 46)

Flauto

Oboe

Clarinetto in Sib

Corno in Fa

Fagotto

pp 3 3 3

pp 3 3

(dal niente) $\emptyset$ *pp*

(*pp*) $\emptyset$ (al niente)

colla parte senza vibr.

(dal niente) $\emptyset$

4

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Sib

Cor.

Fag.

pp (non cresc.)

pp

Muta in corno inglese

Muta in clarinetto basso

(al niente)

Cor. Ingl. senza vibr.

pp

pp

(al niente)

IV - Mist and fog

quasi improvvisato

7

Fl.

p

più p

Muta in flauto alto

C. Ingl.

Clar. basso

colla parte

(*)

pp

Cor.

pp

ppp

colla parte

Fag.

pp

(*) Circles notes, which represent new or reminiscent tones in the ever changing harmony, should not be particularly emphasised.

10

Fl. Sol.

Fl. alto

senza vibr.

ppp

pp

C. Ingl.

ppp

p

ppp

p

Cl. Bas.

ppp

p

ppp

Cor.

p

ppp

Fag.

ppp

p

14

Fl. Sol.

C. Ingl.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

pp *mp* *pp*

ppp *p* *pp*

p *pp* *mp*

p *ppp* *p* *pp*

ppp *p* *pp*

18

Fl. Sol.

C. Ingl.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

mp *pp* *mf*

mp *pp* *mp* *ppp*

pp *mp* *pp* *mf*

mp *pp* *mf* *ppp*

mp *pp* *mf* *ppp*

22

Fl. Sol.

C. Ingl.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

ppp *mp* *pp*

p *ppp* *mf*

ppp ($\emptyset$) *mp* *pp* *mf*

p *ppp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

p *pp* *mf* *pp*

26

Fl. Sol.

C. Ingl.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

mf *ppp* *mp* *pp*

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

pp *mp* *pp*

mp *pp* *mp*

IV - Mist and fog

30

Fl. Sol

C. Ingl.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

mp *ppp*($\emptyset$) *p*

ppp *p* ($\emptyset$) *ppp*

pp *mp* $\emptyset$ *pp* *p*

mp $\emptyset$ *pp* *mf* *ppp*

pp *mp* *ppp* *p*

34

Fl. Sol

C. Ingl.

Cl. Bas.

Cor.

Fag.

($\emptyset$) *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p*

p *ppp*($\emptyset$) *pp*

pp *p* $\emptyset$ *ppp*($\emptyset$) *pp*

p *ppp* *p*

ppp *p* *ppp*

Muta in flauto grande

mettere il sordino

38 **Quasi morendo** Fl. grande [senza vibr.]

Fl. *ppp* (*senza cresc.*)

C. Ing. *ppp* (∅) *poch.* (∅)

Cl. Bas. *ppp* (∅) *pp* Muta in clarinetto in Si $\flat$

Cor. *pp* [senza sord.]

Fag. *pp*



V - Upstream Home

(4/4 ♩ = 60)

V - All things are current found

To Jill

“The last vestiges of daylight at length disappeared, and as we rowed silently along with our backs toward home through the darkness, we had little to say, but sat absorbed in thought, or in silence listened to the monotonous sound of our oars, and the valley echoed the sound to the stars...”

“Two herons, with their long and slender limbs relieved against the sky, were seen travelling high over our heads...”

Lento recitativo. Semplicemente (♩ = 56)

Score for Voice and Orchestra, measures 1 through 5.

Voice: All things are current found on earthly ground, —

Flauto: *Colla parte* [*senza vibr.*] *ppp*

Corno inglese: —

Clarinetto in Sib: — *ppp*

Corno in Fa: — *p dolce*

Fagotto: — *p dolce*

The image shows a musical score for a vocal piece and an orchestra. The vocal part is in 4/4 time, starting with a whole note rest, followed by a half note, and then a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are "All things are current found on earthly ground, —". The orchestral parts include Flute, English Horn, Clarinet in Bb, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The Flute part starts with a whole note rest, followed by a half note, and then a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The English Horn, Clarinet in Bb, and Horn in F parts have whole note rests. The Bassoon part has a whole note rest. The score is marked "Lento recitativo. Semplicemente" with a tempo of 56 beats per minute. The dynamic markings are "ppp" for the Flute and Clarinet in Bb, and "p dolce" for the Horn in F and Bassoon.

6

Spi - rits and e - le - ments have their des - cents.

Fl.

pp *espr.*

C. Ingl.

pp

Cl. S $\flat$

(non cresc.) *pp*

Cor. Fa

p

Fag.

9

Un pochino animando (♩ = 66)

Night and day, year on year,

Fl.

ppp

C. Ingl.

ppp

Cl. S $\flat$

ppp *pp*

Cor. Fa

Fag.

12 **Tempo primo**

High and low, far and near, — These are our own as - pects, These are our own re - grets!

Fl.

C. Infl.

Cl. Sib

Cor. Fa

Fag.

pp *espr.*

pp

pp

pp

pp

15

Ye gods of the shore Who a -

Fl.

C. Infl.

Cl. Sib

Cor. Fa

Fag.

port. 3 3

pp *espr.* 3

pp *espr.* 3

pp *espr.* 3

pp *espr.* 3

18

bide e - ver-more, I see your far head - land _____ Stretch - ing on ei - ther hand;

Fl.

C. Ingl.

Cl. Sb.

Cor. Fa.

Fag.

fp

fp

fp

fp

22

— I hear the sweet _____ evening sounds

Fl.

C. Ingl.

Cl. Sb.

Cor. Fa.

Fag.

piu p

dolce ed espr.

ppp

All'improvviso

(in chest voice, somewhat abrupt and playful)

25 Lento

From your un - de - caying grounds; "Cheat me no more with time!" (ord.) Take

pp *dolcissimo, ma quasi senza espressione* *fp* *ppp*

pp *dolcissimo, ma quasi senza espressione* *fp* *ppp*

pp *dolcissimo, ma quasi senza espressione* *fp* *ppp*

pp *dolcissimo, ma quasi senza espressione* *fp* *ppp*

pp *dolcissimo, ma quasi senza espressione* *fp* *ppp*

ppp *possibile*

28 Lento

me to your clime. (as long as possible) *perdendosi*

ppp *poco* *perdendosi*

con sord.* *ppp* *possibile* *poco* *perdendosi*

(*esitando*) (short) *pp* *poco* *perdendosi*

con sord. *pp* *perdendosi*

con sord.** (*esitando*) (short) *ppp* *poco* *perdendosi*

(*) Stuff a piece of cloth into the liebesfuss.

(**) Likewise, into the upper joint

V.b - All things are current found

(instrumental version)

“The last vestiges of daylight at length disappeared, and as we rowed silently along with our backs toward home through the darkness, we had little to say, but sat absorbed in thought, or in silence listened to the monotonous sound of our oars, and the valley echoed the sound to the stars...”

“Two herons, with their long and slender limbs relieved against the sky, were seen travelling high over our heads...”

*All things are current found on earthly ground,
Spirits and elements have their descents.
Night and day, year on year,
High and low, far and near,
These are our own aspects,
These are our own regrets!
Ye gods of the shore
Who abide evermore,
I see your far headland
Stretch-ing on either hand;
I hear the sweet evening sounds
From your undecaying grounds;
Cheat me no more with time!
Take me to your clime.*

Lento recitativo. Semplicemente

[senza vibr.]

Flauto

ppp

Corno inglese

p espr.

Clarinetto in Sib

ppp

Corno in Fa

p dolce

Fagotto

p dolce

6

Fl.

p espr.

pp

espr.

C. Ingl.

pp

Cl. S $\flat$

espr.

pp

Cor. Fa

pp

espr.

Fag.

9

Fl.

ppp

(esitando)

C. Ingl.

(esitando)

Cl. S $\flat$

ppp

pp

Cor. Fa

Fag.

11 Un pochino animando

Fl.

C. Incl.

Cl. S[♯]

Cor. Fa

Fag.

Tempo primo

p espr.

pp

pp

mp

14

Fl.

pp *espr.*

C. Ing.

pp *molto libero* *3* *(esitando)* *pp* *pp* *espr.* *3*

Cl. S $\flat$

pp

Cor. Fa

sfz

Fag.

pp *(esitando)* *pp*

17

Fl. *mf espr.* *port.* *3* *3* *p* *(freddo, senza vibr.)* *3* *mf* *(più espr.)*

C. Ingl.

Cl. S $\flat$

Cor. Fa

Fag.



21

Fl. *fp* *dolce ed espr.* *ppp*

C. Ingl. *fp*

Cl. S $\flat$ *fp*

Cor. Fa *fp* *dolce ed espr.* *ppp*

Fag. *fp* *p misterioso* *3*

25 **Lento** **All'improvviso** (ord.)

Fl. *pp* *dolcissimo, ma quasi senza espressione* *fp* *ppp*

C. Ingl. *fp* *ppp*

Cl. S $\flat$ *pp* *dolcissimo, ma quasi senza espressione* *fp* *ppp* *tr* *(rall.)*

Cor. Fa *pp* *dolcissimo, ma quasi senza espressione* *fp* *ppp* *p dolce (da lontano)*

Fag. *fp* *ppp possibile*

28 **Lento**

Fl. *ppp* *poco* *perdendosi*

C. Ingl. *con sord.* (short)* *ppp possibile* *poco* *perdendosi*

Cl. S $\flat$ *(esitando)* *(short)* *pp* *poco* *perdendosi*

Cor. Fa *ppp* *perdendosi*

Fag. *(esitando)* *con sord.** (short)* *ppp* *poco* *perdendosi*

(*) Stuff a piece of cloth into the liebesfuss.

(**) Stuff a piece of cloth into the upper joint