

Henry Thoreau  
(from *A Week on  
the Concord and  
Merrimack Rivers*)

Commissioned by the New England Classical  
Singers of Andover, Massachusetts,  
David Hodgkins, Artistic Director, on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary

# Merrimack

## I. "Gradually the village murmur subsided"

Ronald Perera

**Gently; somewhat free**  
(♩ = 66)

Soprano  
Alto  
Tenor  
Bass

Grad-u-al-ly the vil-lage mur-mur sub-sid-ed,  
Grad-u-al-ly the vil-lage mur-mur sub-sid-ed,  
Grad-u-al-ly the vil-lage mur-mur sub-sid-ed,  
Grad-u-al-ly the vil-lage mur-mur sub-sid-ed,

**Gently; somewhat free**  
(♩ = 66)

Piano Reduction (for chorus rehearsal only)

4

S.  
A.  
T.  
B.

and we seemed to be em-barked on the pla-cid cur-rent of our dreams,  
and we seemed to be em-barked on the pla-cid cur-rent of our dreams,  
and we seemed to be em-barked on the pla-cid cur-rent of our dreams,  
and we seemed to be em-barked on the pla-cid cur-rent of our dreams,

Pno. Red.

2 9

S. *(p)* float - ing from past \_\_\_\_\_ to fu - ture, to fu - ture *mf*

A. *(p)* float - ing from past \_\_\_\_\_ to fu - ture, to fu - ture *mf*

T. *(p)* float - ing from past \_\_\_\_\_ to fu - ture, to fu - ture *mf*

B. *(p)* float - ing from past \_\_\_\_\_ to fu - ture, to fu - ture *mf*

Pno. Red. *(p)* *mf*

13

S. *p* as si-lent-ly as one a-wakes \_\_\_\_\_ to fresh\_ morn-ing or eve - ning thoughts. *pp*

A. *p* as si-lent-ly as one a-wakes \_\_\_\_\_ to fresh\_ morn-ing or eve - ning thoughts. *pp*

T. *p* as si-lent - ly as one a-wakes \_\_\_\_\_ to fresh\_ morn - ing or eve - ning thoughts. *pp*

B. *p* as si-lent - ly as one a-wakes \_\_\_\_\_ to fresh\_ morn - ing or eve - ning thoughts. *pp*

Pno. Red. *p* *pp*

II. "As we glided"

1 Smooth (♩ = 76)

S.

A.

T.

B.

Pno. Red.

5

S.   
As we glid - ed

A.   
As we glid - ed

T.   
As we glid - ed

B.   
As we glid - ed

Pno. Red.

8

S. o-ver the broad bo-som of the Mer-ri-mack, be-tween Chelms-ford and Dra-cut, at noon, the

A. o-ver the broad bo-som of the Mer-ri-mack, be-tween Chelms-ford and Dra-cut, at noon, the

T. o-ver the broad bo-som of the Mer-ri-mack, be-tween Chelms-ford and Dra-cut, at noon, the

B. o-ver the broad bo-som of the Mer-ri-mack, be-tween Chelms-ford and Dra-cut, at noon, the

Pno. Red.

(col 8va)

12

S. rat-ting of our oars was ech-oed o-ver the wa-ter to those vil-lag-es, and their slight sounds to

A. rat-ting of our oars was ech-oed o-ver the wa-ter to those vil-lag-es, and their slight sounds to

T. rat-ting of our oars was ech-oed o-ver the wa-ter to those vil-lag-es, and their slight sounds to

B. rat-ting of our oars was ech-oed o-ver the wa-ter to those vil-lag-es, and their slight sounds to

Pno. Red.

16 *mf* *p* 3

S. us. Their har-bors lay as smooth and fair-y- like\_ as the

A. us. Their har-bors lay as smooth and fair-y- like\_ as the

T. us.

B. us.

Pno. Red. *mf* *p* bring out 3

Ped. Ped.

20 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *sub.p*

S. Li - do, or Sy-ra-cuse, or Rhodes in our i-mag - i - na - tion,

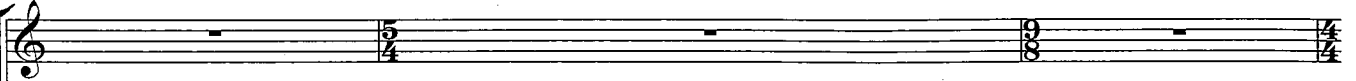
A. Li - do, or Sy-ra-cuse, or Rhodes in our i-mag - i - na - tion,

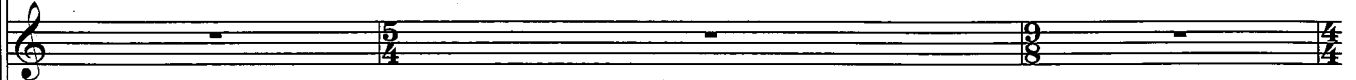
T. while, like some strange

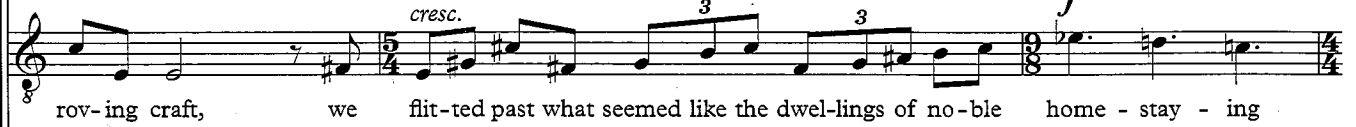
B. while, like some strange

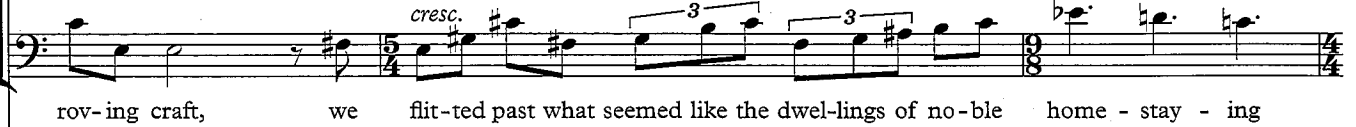
Pno. Red. *mf* *sub.p*

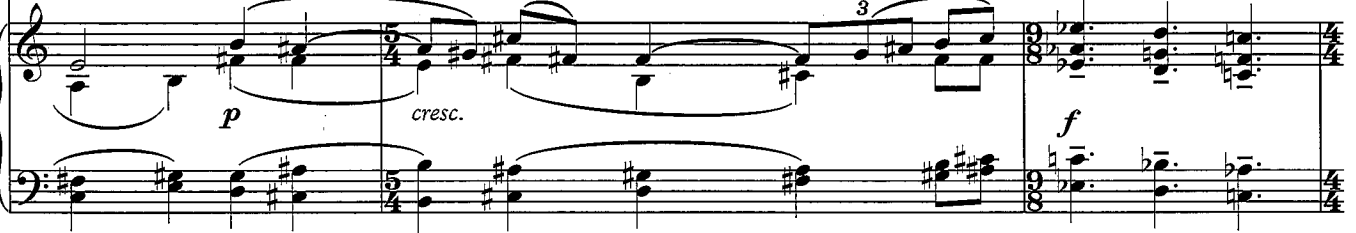
23

S. 

A. 

T. 
  
rov-ing craft, we flit-ted past what seemed like the dwel-lings of no-ble home - stay - ing

B. 
  
rov-ing craft, we flit-ted past what seemed like the dwel-lings of no-ble home - stay - ing

Pno. Red. 

rit. . . . . A tempo (♩ = 76)

26

S. 

A. 

T. 
  
men. . . . . Some-times

B. 
  
men. . . . . Some-times

Pno. Red. 

rit. . . . . A tempo (♩ = 76)

30

S. *pp* As we glid - ed, *ppp* and the *p*

A. *pp* As we glid - ed, *ppp* and the *p*

T. *mp* we saw the riv-er road a quar-ter or half a mile dis- tant, *mp*

B. *mp* we saw the riv-er road a quar-ter or half a mile dis- tant, *mp*

Pno. Red. *mp* *sub. pp*

33

S. *mf* par-ti-col-ored Con-cord stage, with its cloud of dust, re-

A. *mf* par-ti-col-ored Con-cord stage, with its cloud of dust, re-

T. *pp* As we glid - ed, *ppp* its van of ear-nest trav-el-ing fa-ces, re- *mp* *mf*

B. *pp* As we glid - ed, *ppp* its van of ear-nest trav-el-ing fa-ces, re- *mp* *mf*

Pno. Red. *mp*

*poco a poco cresc.*

*ff*

S.

mind-ing us that the coun-try has its plac-es of ren-dez-vous for rest - less, rest - less, rest - less Yan-kee

A.

mind-ing us that the coun-try has its plac-es of ren-dez-vous for rest - less, rest - less, rest - less Yan-kee

T.

mind-ing us that the coun-try has its plac-es of ren-dez-vous for rest - less, rest - less, rest - less Yan-kee

B.

mind-ing us that the coun-try has its plac-es of ren-dez-vous for rest - less, rest - less, rest - less Yan-kee

Pno.  
Red.

*poco a poco cresc.*

S.

men. There they lived on, those New Eng-land peo-ple,

A.

men. There they lived on, those New Eng-land peo-ple,

T.

men. There they lived on, those New Eng-land peo-ple,

B.

men. There they lived on, those New Eng-land peo-ple,

Pno.  
Red.

*f* *p*



46 *mf* *rit.*  $\text{♩} = 76$  9

S. farm - er lives,

A. farm - er lives, fa - ther and

T. farm - er lives, fa - ther and grand-fa - ther and

B. farm - er lives, fa - ther and grand-fa - ther and great -

Pno. Red. *rit.*  $\text{♩} = 76$  *p*

51 *p* *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*

S. fa - ther and grand-fa - ther and great - grand - fath - er on and on,

A. grand-fa - ther and great - grand - fath - er on and on, with-out noise,

T. great - grand-fa - ther and on and on, on and on, with-out noise,

B. grand - fath - er on and on, on and on, with-out noise, with-out noise,

Pno. Red. *cresc.* *mf* *dim.*

10 56

S. *p* keep - ing up tra - di - tion. *pp* As we glid - ed. *(pp)* *rit.* *ppp*

A. *p* keep - ing up tra - di - tion. *pp* As we glid - ed. *(pp)* *ppp*

T. *p* keep - ing up tra - di - tion. *pp*

B. *p* Keep - ing up tra - di - tion. *pp*

Pno. Red. *p* *pp* *rit.*