Download Rob's full text, with beautiful artwork by Nick Hayes, at righttoroam.org.uk/riversong

Riversong

Words: Robert MacFarlane
Music: Chris Hutchings
choirsforclimate.com/riversong

Performance suggestion 1: start with parts 1 and 2 as a quiet background for 30-60 seconds. Add part 3, first sung through in unison and then as a round in up to ten parts. Part 3 fades to part of the background as part 4 begins, again sung through in unison and then as a round, in up to fifteen parts. To finish, fade out, with part 3 last of all.

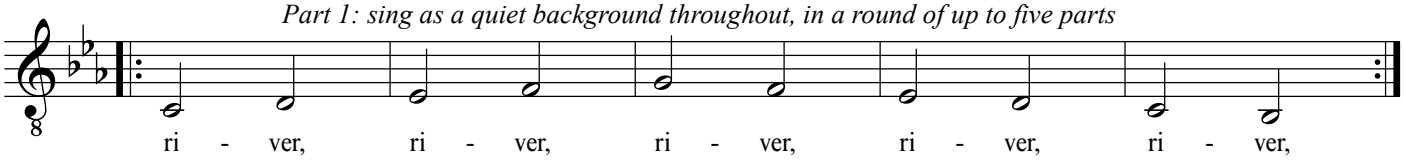
To hand out parts, you can cut copies along the dotted lines and hand out to singers (and audience/passers-by!) If reading on a mobile phone, hold it sideways and you should be able to read your part without scrolling.

Parts 1 and 2 should be suitable for any singers. Part 3 requires some careful counting but should be fine for anyone who's sung rounds before. Part 4 should be led by some of the more experienced singers in the group. All parts can be sung by any voices, in whichever octave is most comfortable for them, and can be sung as rounds entering on any bar.

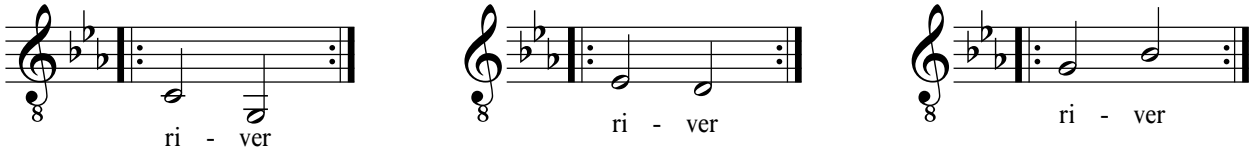
Speed is approximately minim=60: a low quiet drumbeat (e.g. on a bodhran) could be added to keep it steady.

You can substitute the names of your own rivers and river-creatures in parts 1-3 to make a new undersong.

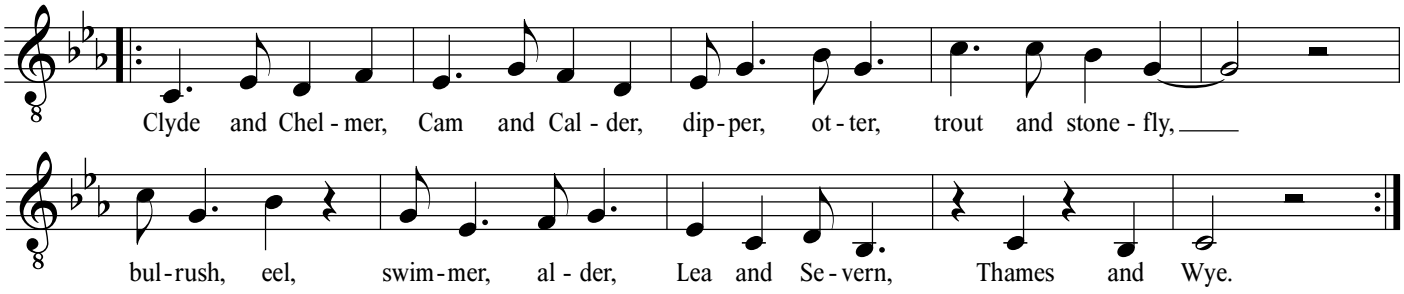
Part 1: sing as a quiet background throughout, in a round of up to five parts



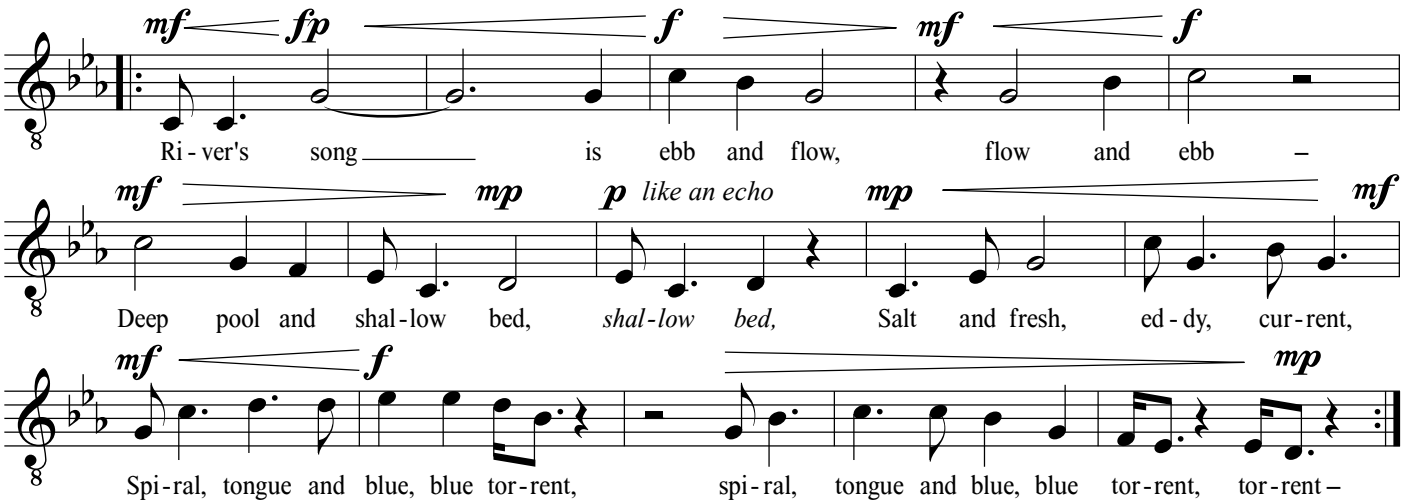
Part 2: choose whichever phrase is most comfortable for your voice and keep repeating it, or move between them



Part 3: sing together first time (or first few times), then as a round in up to ten parts. Fade to a quiet background when part 4 starts.



Part 4: sing together first time through (or first few times) and then as a round in up to fifteen parts



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