

As recorded by JAMES BAY

Hold Back the River

For SATB and Piano with Optional Instrumental Accompaniment*

Duration: ca. 4:00

Arranged by
ROGER EMERSON

Words and Music by
IAIN ARCHER and JAMES BAY

Driving (♩ = ca. 136)

N.C.

Piano

mp (Play mm. 1-24 in absence of guitar)

9

Soprano
unis. mp

Alto

Tenor
unis. mp

Bass

Tried to keep you close to me

*Available separately:
SATB (00154232), SAB (00154233), 2-Part (00154234), ShowTrax CD (00154236)
Rhythm parts available as a digital download (00154235)
(gtr, b, dm, tamb)
halleonard.com/choral

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— but life — got — in — be-tween. —

12

17

Tried to square —

15

— not be - ing — there, — but it's there —

18

HOLD BACK THE RIVER – SATB

that I should have been. should have been. should have been.

should have been.

21

25 Hold back the riv-er, let me look in your eyes, hold

Hold back.

Bb2 Bb(add 9)

(play) *mf*

24

back the riv-er, so I can stop for a min-ute and

Hold back. Hold back.

Bb2 F2

27

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB

see where you hide, hold back the riv-er, hold back.

Hold back.

30

35

unis. Once up - on

unis.

N.C.

33

a dif - f'rent life we rode our bikes

36

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB

in - to the sky. But

40

43

now we're caught a - gainst the tide,

Dm C²/E F F/A B^b F/A F

43

flash - ing by.

those dis - tant days all flash-ing by.

flash-ing by.

F/A B^b F/A F

46

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB

51 *unis. f*

flash-ing by. Hold back the riv-er, let me

Csus

C

B^b2

49

unis.

look in your eyes, hold back the riv-er, so I can stop

unis.

52

for a min-ute and be by your side, hold back the riv-er, hold

F5

55

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB

59

A few sopranos 8va through m. 66

unis.

— back. — Hold — back the riv - er, let me look in your — eyes, hold —

unis.

C5 Bb2

58

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line with lyrics: "— back. — Hold — back the riv - er, let me look in your — eyes, hold —". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass clef and a more melodic line in the treble clef. Measure numbers 58 and 59 are indicated.

— back the riv - er, so — I — can stop — for a min - ute and —

unis.

unis.

F5

61

Detailed description: This system contains the third and fourth staves of music. The top staff continues the vocal line with lyrics: "— back the riv - er, so — I — can stop — for a min - ute and —". The bottom staff continues the piano accompaniment. A fermata is placed over the end of the vocal phrase. The piano part includes a chord change to F5. Measure numbers 61 and 62 are indicated.

see where you — hide, hold — back the riv - er, hold — back. —

End 8va double

C5

64

Detailed description: This system contains the fifth and sixth staves of music. The top staff continues the vocal line with lyrics: "see where you — hide, hold — back the riv - er, hold — back. —". The bottom staff continues the piano accompaniment. The piano part features a chord change to C5. Measure numbers 64 and 65 are indicated.

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB

unis. mf

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh,

unis. mf

N.C.

mf

oh, oh, oh, oh, woah, woah.

75

Lone - ly wa -

Opt. Solo

F2

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB

- ter, _____ lone - ly wa - ter, _____ won't you

76

let us wan - der, _____ let us hold _____

B^b2 Gm¹¹

79

83

Opt. Solo

_____ each _____ oth - er. Lone - ly wa - ter, _____

End opt. Solo

F

82

HOLD BACK THE RIVER -- SATB

lone - ly wa - ter, — won't — you let us wan -

- der, — let us hold — each — oth - er. Hold —

End opt. Solo

Gm11

92

— back the riv - er, let me look in your — eyes, hold — back the riv - er, so —

Bb2

HOLD BACK THE RIVER – SATB

unis.

I _____ can stop _____ for a min-ute and _____ be by your _____ side, hold _____

unis.

F5

95

100

unis. A few sopranos *8va* through m. 107

_____ back the riv-er, hold _____ back. _____ Hold _____ back the riv-er, let me

unis.

C5 Bb2

98

unis.

look in your _____ eyes, hold _____ back the riv-er so _____ I _____ can stop _____

unis.

101

HOLD BACK THE RIVER – SATB

— for a min-ute and — see where you — hide, hold — back the riv - er, hold —

F5

104

108

End 8va double *unis. mf*

— back. — Lone - ly wa - ter, —

unis. mf

C5 F5

mf

107

lone - ly wa - ter, — won't — you let us wan -

Bb2

110

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB

- der, let us hold each oth - er.

Gm Gm/C

113

116

Lone - ly wa - ter, lone - ly wa -

F5

116

- ter, won't you let us wan - der,

Bb2

119

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB

unis.
let us hold each oth - er.

Gm

122

125

Mm. mm.
mm.

unis.

N.C. mm.

mp

125

rit.

rit. mm.

rit.

129

HOLD BACK THE RIVER - SATB