The River

(for performance-artist, and a recording of her voice, four trombones, and piano)

William Osborne
y
oung
woman
seated center stage
long black sequenced robes
flowing from shoulders
and vanishing in darkness
in form of
rose of night
right breast bare
crossed tied wrists
before her chest

LIGHT
rises subdued on face
gradually brighter
widening to rose
of swirling underwater light
from “singing to herself”
slow face to face
pause
slow face to black

MOVEMENT
cradled unseen child
in bound arms
released to swirling
river of life

VOICE
both gentle
octave lower than notated

TROMBONES
x note heads
removed f-valve tuning slide
numbers = slide position
for 88-H
The River
(for performance-artists, and a recording of her voice, four trombones, and piano)

William Osborne

(Both vocal parts are sung one octave lower than written.)

Quieto e rubato (♩= ca. 52)

on that night the tide rose on that night rose the flood- ing tide

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when she went with her child
to let her go
to let her go
flowing on the swell
to live
to die
Quieto e rubato, come sopra

sing

so in the night the flood-ing tide
went out in the night went out when she went with her child to let here go to let her

go flowing on the swell it was she who went and sang by the water
took her to the water sound-less swirling water when she went with her child

in the night went and sang went with her child and sang by the water took her in her arms and sang to leave her in the
water


cradle in the water soundless swirling water swirling cradle in the water

to live
to die
night by night by another for another

it was another mother life one other mother

Lontano
sing

\[ \sum_{\alpha} \mu \] on that night the tide rose \hspace{1cm} on that night rose the flood-ing tide

\[ \sum_{\alpha} \mu \]

\[ \sum_{\alpha} \mu \] on that night the tide rose \hspace{1cm} on that night rose the flood-ing tide

\[ \sum_{\alpha} \mu \]
when she went with her child to put her in the water

sound-less-swirling water swirling cradle in the water to live
to die
day by night by and for an-oth-er
an-oth-er child
vieled bride child

no need to fear the wo-man tied moth-er flood we bound
to shine give light

senza pedale
no vieled wed bound it was one more woman tied

wed bound locked away bound away another mother life one other mother
build intensity

Trb. 3

mf

build intensity

Trb. 4

mf

f

3

3

3+}

f

4

4

4

3+}

f

4

4

4

3+}

f

4

4

4

3+}
sing

so in the night the flood-ing tide
in the night went down down into the deep child in arms and down singing down by the flood- ing tide where her mother went

long ago child in arms mother arms in the night the tide rose a father-less child they said a father-less
child bear a-way the bur-den care worn moth-er giv-en life no bound bound to life

by the ri-ver child in arms cling-ing on moth-er hold-ing hold-ing
so in the night the flood-ing tide went

with her child wo-man child went down went with her child to let her down down in-to the deep sing-ing down
mother life her mother life

in the night the flood- ing tide went down
down into the deep child in arms and down

sing-ing down
to the flood- ing tide and held her
held her

sing-ing to her-self
no riv-er flow on deep wa- ter
the flood at last
sing-ing to the ri-vers rose of

night flow-ing on
let her

go rose of night
let her go

let her

go