

Ryan Laney

BARADA

*for SATB Choir
a capella*

*Text by Nizar Qabbani
Translated to English by Rebecca S. Taleghani*

(2013)

PROGRAM NOTE

The Barada river, which flows through the city of Damascus, Syria, has led the region to thrive for thousands of years. During this time, the area's inhabitants sculpted the river to irrigate what would have otherwise been a very barren landscape. In this way, the river has always been a vital force in the prosperity of southwestern Syria. Unfortunately, for the past few decades, the river has suffered from severe drought.

Nizar Qabbani (1923-1998), perhaps the most famous Arabic poet of his time, did not live to see the bombings of Damascus throughout the Syrian civil war. Although this poem, which reads as a prayer to the river, was not inspired by the revolution, the words certainly take on a more powerful meaning in this context.

DURATION: ca. 4:30

Barada, by Nizar Qabbani

Barada, oh father of all rivers
Oh, horse that races the days
Be, in our sad history, a prophet
Who receives inspiration from his lord
Millions acknowledge you as an Arab
Prince... so pray as an imam

Oh eyes of the gazelle in the desert of Sham
Look down. This is the age of lavender
They have detained you in the pavilions for a long time
We have woven tents from tears
God has witnessed that we have broken no promise
Or secured protection for those we love

PRONUNCLATION KEY:

<u>Word</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Definition/Usage</u>
<i>Barada</i>	[Bərada]	a river in Syria
<i>imam</i>	[imam]	the leader of a mosque
<i>Sham</i>	[Sham]	the Syrian desert

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Music by Ryan Laney

With a sense of longing, ♩ = 60

mp *mf*

SOPRANO
Ba - ra - da, oh fa - ther of all riv - ers Oh,

mf *mf*

ALTO
Ba - ra - da, Ba - ra - da, Oh,

mf *mf*

TENOR
Ba - ra - da, Ba - ra - da, fa - ther of all riv - ers Oh

mf *mf*

BASS
Ba - ra - da, Ba - ra - da, Oh,

Piano (rehearsal only)

mp *mf*

II

A

f **A little faster, ♩ = 66** *mf*

S. horse that ra - ces the days Be in our sad his - to - ry

A. horse that ra - ces the days Be in our sad his - to - ry

T. horse that ra - ces the days Be in our sad his - to - ry

B. horse that ra - ces the days Be in

A **A little faster, ♩ = 66** *f* *mf* *cresc.*

8 *f*

S. a pro - phet that re - ceives in - spi - ra - tion from his

A. a pro - phet that re - ceives in - spi ra - tion from his

T. a pro - phet that re - ceives in - spi - ra - tion from his

B. our sad his - to - ry a pro - phet that re - ceives in - spi - ra tion from his



10 *ff* lord

S. lord, from his lord

A. *ff* lord, from his lord, from his lord

T. *ff* lord, from his lord, from his lord *mp* Mil - lions ack -

B. *ff* lord from his lord *mp* Mil - lions ack -

12 **B**

S. *mp* *mf*
 Mil-lions ack - now-ledge you Mil-lions ack-now-ledge you

A. *mp* *mf*
 Mil - lions ack - now-ledge you Mil - lions ack - now-ledge you

T. *mf*
 now-ledge you Mil-lionsack - now-ledge you as an

B. *mf*
 now-ledge you Mil-lionsack - now-ledge you as an

B



14

S. *f*
 Mil-lions ack - now-ledge you as an A - rab Prince so

A. *f*
 as an A - rab Prince

T. *f*
 A - rab Prince as an A - rab Prince

B. *f*
 A - rab Prince A - rab Prince A - rab Prince

B

16

S. pray pray

A. *f* pray pray

T. *f* pray pray

B. *mf* pray pray



18

S. *rit.* pray, *mp* pray as an i - mam

A. pray pray *mp* pray as an i - mam

T. pray pray *mp* pray as an i - mam

B. pray *mp* pray as an

Tempo I

21 **C** *mp* *mf* fa - ther of all riv - ers—
 S. Ba - ra - da, oh fa - ther of all riv - ers Oh,
 A. *mp* *mf* Ba - ra - da, Ba - ra - da, Oh,
 T. *mp* *mf* Ba - ra - da, Ba - ra - da, fa - ther of all riv - ers— Oh,
 B. *mp* *mf* i - mam Ba - ra - da, Ba - ra - da, Oh, fa - ther of all

Tempo I

C *mp* *mf*



25 *f* *subito mp* Oh,
 S. horse that ra - ces the days
 A. *f* *mp* horse that ra - ces the days
 T. *f* *mp* horse that ra - ces the days
 B. *f* *mp* riv - ers Oh, horse that ra - ces the days

f *mp*

D Più mosso, ♩ = 66

S. Oh eyes of the ga-zelle in the des-ert of Sham Look

A. Oh eyes of the ga-zelle in the des-ert of Sham Look

T. Oh eyes of the ga-zelle in the de-ert of Sham Look

B. Oh eyes of the ga-zelle in the des-ert of Sham Look

D Più mosso, ♩ = 66

accel.

31

With motion, ♩ = 80

poco rit. **Grandiose**, ♩ = 72

S. down, look down, look down, look down. This is the

A. down, look down, look down, look down. This is the

T. down, look down, look down. This is the

B. down, look down, look down, look down. This is the

With motion, ♩ = 80

poco rit. **Grandiose**, ♩ = 72

36 *subito mp* *rit.* *mp*

S. age of la-ven-der They have de-

A. age age of la-ven der They have de-

T. age This is the age of la-ven der They have de-

B. age la - ven-der They have de-



39 **Tenderly, ♩ = 72** *p*

S. tained you in the pa - vil - ions for a

A. tained you in the pa - vil - ions

T. tained you in the pa - vil - ions

B. tained you in the pa - vil - ions

Tenderly, ♩ = 72

41

stringendo
mp

S. long time, for a long time, for a

A. *p* for a long time, *mp* for a long time, for a

T. *p* for a long time, *mp* for a long time, for a

B. *mp* for a long time, for a

stringendo
mp *mf*

45

rit.
f ($\text{♩} = 96$)

S. long time long time

A. long time, *f* for a long, long time for a

T. long time, *f* for a long, for a long

B. long time, *f* for a long, for a long

rit.
f ($\text{♩} = 96$)

Calming down, ♩ = 80

49

S. *mf*

A. long time *p* Ah *mf*

T. time *p* Ah *mf*

B. time *p* Ah *mf*

Calming down, ♩ = 80



A little slower, ♩ = 72

54

S. *p* **E** *expansive* *mf*

We have wo - ven tents from tears God has

A. *p* *expansive* *mf*

We have wo - ven tents from tears God has

T. *p* *expansive* *mf*

We have wo - ven tents from tears God has

B. *p* *expansive* *mf*

We have wo - ven tents from tears God has

A little slower, ♩ = 72

E *accel.* *mf* ♩ = 80

58

S. wit - nessed that we have bro - ken no pro - mise. Or se -

A. wit - nessed that we have bro - ken no pro - mise. Or se -

T. wit - nessed that we have bro - ken no pro - mise, bro - ken no pro - mise Or se -

B. wit - nessed that we have bro - ken no pro - mise. Or se -

ff

f

ff

ff

ff



60 *poco a poco rit.*

S. cured pro - tec - tion, Or se - cured pro - tec - tion, pro - tec - tion of those we

A. cured pro - tec - tion, Or se - cured pro - tec - tion, pro - tec - tion of those we

T. cured, Or se - cured pro - tec - tion, Or se - cured pro - tec - tion of those we

B. cured pro - tec - tion, Or se - cured pro - tec - tion of those we

f

mf

mf

f

mf

f

mf

poco a poco rit.

A tempo (♩ = 80)

poco a poco rit.

Tranquil, ♩ = 60 13

65 *mp* *p* solo

S. love Or se - cured pro - tec - tion Ba -

A. *mp* love Or se - cured pro - tec - tion of those we love.

T. *mp* love Or se - cured pro - tec - tion of those we love.

B. *mp* love Or se - cured pro - tec - tion of those we love.

A tempo (♩ = 80)

poco a poco rit.

Tranquil, ♩ = 60

mp *p*



F

solo

70

S. ra - da, oh fa - ther of all riv - ers Oh, horse that ra - ces the days *tutti pp*

A. *pp* Ba - ra - da *n* mmm *pp*

T. *pp* Ba - ra - da *n* mmm *pp*

B. *pp* Ba - ra - da *n* mmm *pp*

F

rit.