

As recorded by JAMES BAY

# Hold Back the River

For SAB 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  
Tried

Baritone  
*mp*

to keep \_\_\_\_\_ you close \_\_\_\_\_ to me \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ but life \_\_\_\_\_ got \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_

17

Tried to square \_\_\_\_\_

not be ing there, but it's there

4

that I should have been.

should have been, should have been.

25

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

Hold back.

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

Hold back. Hold back.

5

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

Hold back.

35

*unis.*

Once up on

a dif - f'rent life we rode our bikes

in - to the sky. But

43

now we're caught a - gainst the tide,

flash - ing by  
those dis - tant days all flash - ing by,

*unis. f* 51

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

*unis.*

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

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

59

A few sopranos *8va* through m. 66  
*unis.*

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

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

End *8va* double

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

67

*unis. mf*

Oh, oh, oh, — oh, oh, — oh, — oh, —

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

75

Lone - ly wa -  
Opt. Solo

5

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

let us wan - der, let us hold

83

Opt. Solo

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

End opt. Solo

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

End opt. Solo

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

92

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

*unis.*

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

A few sopranos *Sva* through m. 107  
*unis.*

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

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

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

End *Sva* double *unis. mf*

back. Lonely wa-ter,

lonely wa-ter, won't you let us wan'

der, let us hold each oth-er.

Lonely wa-ter, lonely wa-

*div.* *div.*

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

*unis.*

let us hold each oth - er.

125

Mm, mm.

*rit.* *rit.*

mm.

