

Dedicated to teacher Fiona Medley for her devotion and vision for the arts in schools,
and to principal David McFall for his enduring support of that vision.

River Song

Words and Music by Timothy and Laura Piper

Top line is Verse 1.

Bottom line is Verse 2.

E_b p **B_b** **A_b** **B_b** **E_b** **B_b**
D **C** **D** **D**

Face to the west, child as the ri-ver flows by. Wind in your hair,

Face to the east, child and see where it goes.

7 **A_b** **B_b** **A_b** **E_b** **A_b** **E_b**
C **C** **C** **C** **C** **C**

rain in the air. An-cient po-wer swel - ling, its sto - ry a - live.

Spray on your cheek, damp on your feet. An-cient wis-dom burst - ing, a - loud from the deep.

13 **A_b** **E_badd2** **F** **B_b** **B_b** **E_b**
A_b **A_b** **A_b** **A_b** **A_b** **A_b**

Lis-ten, lis-ten, know that you are home. Rush - ing ri - ver,

19 **B_b** **A_b** **B_b** **E_b** **B_b** **B_b**
D **C** **D** **D** **D** **D**

pour - ing rain, L'eau qui coule comme un re-frain. Child of wat - er, wet like spring,

24 **A_b** **B_b** **B_b** **E_b** **B_b** **A_b**
C **C** **D** **D** **D** **C**

par-tage ta voix and sing. Wa-ter is life, l'eau c'est la vie, Nii-bii Bi-ma - tii-sii-yuun, Ni-bi O-pi-

29 **B_b** **B_b** **E_b** **B_b** **A_b** **B_b** **B_b** **B_b**
D **D** **D** **D** **C** **C** **C** **C**

mad-zi-win. Wa-ter is life, l'eau c'est la vie, Nii-bii Bi-ma - tii-sii-yuun, Ni-bi O-pi-mad-zi-win.

34 **B_b** **B_b** **A_b** **B_b** **G** **B_b** **G** **C_m**
E_b **G** **G** **G** **G** **G** **G** **G**

I hope as you grow ol - der, you will find your way back here. For I

39 **A_b** **B_b** **G** **C_m** **F_m** **E_b** **A_b**
C **C** **C** **C** **C** **C** **C** **C**

know when I am gone, this wa-ter will flow on, sing - ing its an-cient ri-ver song.

45 **B_b** **B_b** **E_b** **B_b** **A_b** **B_b** **A_b** **B_b**
B_b **B_b** **D** **C** **D** **D** **D** **D**

Rush - ing ri - ver, pour - ing rain, L'eau qui coule comme un re-frain.

River Song

2

51 E_b B_b/D A_b/C B_b B_b/D E_b
 Child of wa - ter, — wet like spring, par-tage ta voix and sing. Wa-ter is life, — l'eau c'est la vie,

56 B_b/D A_b/C B_b B_b/D E_b B_b/D
 — Nii-bii Bi-ma - tii-sii-yuun, Ni-bi O-pi-mad-zi-win. Wa-ter is life, — l'eau c'est la vie, — Nii-bii Bi-ma-

61 A_b/C B_b B_b E_b mp B_b/D A_b/C
 tii-sii-yuun, Ni-bi O-pi-mad-zi-win. Face to the ri - ver, child, — lis-ten and learn. —

67 B_b/D E_b B_b/D A_b/C B_b A_b f
 — Songs in your ear, — Your heart-beat can hear. — An - cient know-ledge rum-

73 E_b A_b E_b A_b E_b/G F
 - bling, cal - ling you on. — Lis-ten, — lis-ten, — know that you are — home.

79 B_b B_b/A_b E_b B_b/D A_b/C B_b/D
 — Rush - ing ri - ver, pour - ing rain, l'eau qui coule comme un re-frain.

85 E_b B_b/D A_b/C B_b B_b/D E_b
 Child of wa - ter, — wet like spring, par-tage ta voix and sing. Wa-ter is life, — l'eau c'est la vie,

90 B_b/D A_b/C B_b B_b/D E_b B_b/D
 — Nii-bii Bi-ma - tii-sii-yuun, Ni-bi O-pi-mad-zi-win. Wa-ter is life, — l'eau c'est la vie, — Nii-bii Bi-ma-

95 A_b/C B_b B_b E_b p B_b/D
 tii - sii-yuun, Ni - bi O - pi - mad - zi - win. — Face to the west, child, — as the

100 A_b/C B_b A_b $rit.$ B_b B_b B_b7 E_b
 ri - ver flows by, — know — that you — are home.

The refrain of this song grew out of a music curriculum developed in 2019 for grade 3 students at Pierre Elliott Trudeau Elementary School in Hull, QC. The verses were added later and this song was premiered on Earth Day 2020 at MusicMakers, a concert put on by the Western Quebec School Board.

Niibii Bimatiisiiyuun means "water is life" in the Cree language. This translation is in the James Bay dialect and was provided by Jamie Gull. Nibi Opimadziwin means "life of the water" in the Algonquin language. This translation is in the Rapid Lake dialect and was provided by Gracie Ratt.