

Hold Back The River

- James Bay -

Words & Music by James Bay, Iain Archer
Arranged by Carol Canning

Pop ♩ = 132

Verse 1

Tenor 1

Tenor 2 *p* unvoiced as in English 'chat'

Baritone *p*

Bass

ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch

Tried to keep you close to me but life

5

T 1 *p*

T 2

Bar

B

ch ch ch ch ch ch

got in be - tween

doo doo

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2 Hold Back The River TTBB

9 *mp*

T 1
Tried to square not be - ing there but think

T 2
mp > > > > > >
ch k t ch ch k t ch ch k t ch ch k t ch

Bar
mp
Tried to square not be - ing there but think

B

13

T 1
that I should have been _____ Hold

T 2
mp > > > > > >
ch k t ch ch k t ch ch k t ch ch k t ch Hold

Bar
that I should have been _____

B
mp

Hold

Chorus 1

17

T 1
back the ri-ver let me look in your eyes Hold back the ri-ver so I Can stop

T 2
back the ri-ver let me look in your eyes Hold back the ri-ver so I Can stop

Bar
mp > > > > > >
ch k t ch ch k t ch ch k t ch ch k t ch

B

back_

Hold Back The River TTBB 3

21

T 1
 — for a min - ute and see where you hide Hold___ back the ri - ver hold___ back

T 2
 — for a min - ute and be by your side Hold___ back the ri - ver hold___ back

Bar
 ch k t ch ch k t ch ch k t ch

B
 hold___ back

25

Verse 2

T 1
 ch k t ch ch k t ch Hold back the ri - ver

T 2
 ba da da da bap ba___

Bar
 ba da da da bap ba___

B
 Just_____ hold__ back_____ Once up - on a diff'

29

T 1
 ch k t ch Hold back the ri - ver ch k t ch rode in to the sky___

T 2
 ba da da da bap ba___ ba da da da bap ba___

Bar
 ba da da da bap ba___ ba da da da bap ba___

B
 rent life We rode our bikes in to the sky___

4 Hold Back The River TTBB

33

T 1 *Hold back the ri - ver*

T 2 *ba da da da bap ba_ ba da da da bap ba_*

Bar *ba da da da bap ba_ ba da da da bap ba_*

B *Now we're caught a - gainst*

37

T 1 *ch k t ch Hold back the ri - ver ch k t ch days are fla - shing by_*

T 2 *ba da da da bap ba_ ba da da da bap ba_*

Bar *ba da da da bap ba_ ba da da da bap ba_*

B *the tide Those di - stant days are flash - ing by_*

41

Chorus 2

T 1 *Hold back the ri - ver let me look in your eyes Hold*

T 2 *ba da da da bap ba_ Hold back the ri - ver let me look in your eyes Hold*

Bar *ba da da da bap ba_ Hold back the ri - ver*

B *nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm*
 * As in English 'numb'

6 Hold Back The River TTBB

Verse 3

57

T 1
— back the ri - ver hold__ back woah____ woah woah woah woah__

T 2
— back the ri - ver hold__ back woah____ woah woah woah woah__

Bar
Hold back__ hold__ back woah____ woah woah woah woah__

B
nm nm nm nm nm nm hold__ back come on and hold back Once up - on a diff - rent life we

61

T 1
____ woah woah woah woah____ woah woah oh woah__ woah__

T 2
____ woah woah woah woah____ woah woah oh woah__ woah__

Bar
____ woah woah woah woah____ woah woah oh woah__ woah__

B
rode our bikes in to the sky but now we're caught a - a - gainst the tide__

Interlude 1

65

T 1
mp
Lone - ly wa - ter

T 2

Bar

B
mp
doo_____

Hold Back The River TTBB 7

69

T 1 lone - ly wa - ter___ won't you let us wan - der

T 2

Bar

B doo_____ doo_____

73

T 1 Let us hold___ each___ oth - er Lone - ly wa - ter

T 2 Lone - ly wa - ter

Bar Oh lone - ly wa - ter let us

B doo doo doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

mf

77

T 1 lone - ly wa - ter___ won't you let us wan - der

T 2 lone - ly wa - ter___ won't you let us wan - der

Bar go Oh lone - ly wa - ter let us go Oh lone - ly wa - ter don't you

B doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom doom

8 Hold Back The River TTBB

Chorus 3

81

T 1 Let us hold each oth - er Hold back the ri - ver let me

T 2 Let us hold each oth - er Hold back the ri - ver let me

Bar know Oh lone - ly wa - ter let us Hold back

B doom doom nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm

85

T 1 look in your eyes Hold back the ri - ver so I Can stop for a min - ute and

T 2 look in your eyes Hold back the ri - ver so I Can stop for a min - ute and

Bar Hold back Hold back Hold back Hold back

B nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm

89

T 1 be by your side Hold back the ri - ver hold back Hold back the ri - ver let me

T 2 be by your side Hold back the ri - ver hold back Hold back the ri - ver let me

Bar Hold back Hold back hold back Hold back

B nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm hold back come on and hold back nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm nm

Hold Back The River TTBB 11

Coda
117

T 1

T 2 *p*
ch ch ch ch ch ch ch ch

Bar *p*
Tried to keep you close to me but life

B

121

T 1
doo doo

T 2 *p*
ch ch ch doo

Bar *p*
got in be - tween

B *p*
doo doo

Rit.



Vowels, Scat and Percussive Sounds

Vowels

OO	as in	Shoe	AH	Car
OH		Show	A	Tap
OW		Cow	AI	My
E		Her	I	Dip
EE		Me	U	tongue
EH		Get	MM	humming

woah is standard Not wow, woa, woah
Oh is standard Not Ohw etc. Diphthongs in English are not written.

Scat

doo ba doo	Not doo b doo
doo be doo	Not doo b doo
'Dum' or 'doom'	Not 'dm'
'Dung'	Not 'dng'

Vocal Percussion

check <http://www.chorsonline.com/en/vocalpercussion>

b	bass drum
pf	snare drum
k	snare drum rim
tff or ff	snare drum brushed
t	closed Hi-hat
tsh	open Hi-hat
tum	toms
psh	crashing cymbals
tsah	soft cymbal
ssss(p)	reversed cymbal
tiff'e – tshiff'e	shaker (with accent)
tshiff'e - tshiff'e	shaker (no accent)
<c>	claves (horse click)
koo root	guiro
ch (k-t)	cabasa
<p>	woodblock
ting	triangle