

Concord Hymn
by
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Sung at the completion of the battle monument,
July 4, 1837

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled,
Here once the embattled farmers stood
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps;
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We set today a votive stone;
That memory may their deed redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free,
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raise to them and thee.

duration: c. 5:00

This setting of the *Concord Hymn* is a gentle remembrance of events some sixty years in the past by the time the poem was written; the sound of drum and trumpets (bugles) echoing across the distance of time should seem almost ghostly. At the ceremony dedicating the battle monument, the poem was sung to the tune of "Old Hundredth;" fragments of that tune are heard throughout the last half of the work.