

THE RIVERED EARTH

[SONGS IN TIME OF WAR](#)

[SHARED GROUND](#)

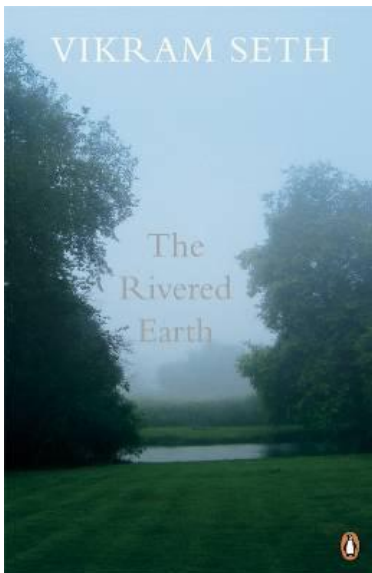
[THE TRAVELLER](#)

[SEVEN ELEMENTS](#)

The four works forming *The Rivered Earth* were commissioned jointly by the Salisbury, Chelsea and Lichfield Festivals over the four years 2006-9, and represent a collaboration between writer Vikram Seth, composer Alec Roth and violinist Philippe Honoré. Each of the first three years of the project took a different culture as its starting point: China for *Songs in Time of War*; Europe for *Shared Ground* and India for *The Traveller*. The final year wove these three sources together in *Seven Elements*. The forces employed – vocal, instrumental, choral and orchestral – were equally varied. Although not originally intended as a tetralogy, themes and ideas, both verbal and musical, developed organically over the four years resulting in many connecting threads. As Vikram says: “The works form a family and, for all their differences, a close one”.

The four constituent works of *The Rivered Earth* received their first performances at the three festivals between 2006 and 2009 (click on the titles above for details); the first performance of all four together was given over two days at the ‘Music and Beyond’ Festival in Ottawa, 11-12 July 2012.

THE RIVERED EARTH – THE BOOK



Vikram Seth’s book *The Rivered Earth* contains the full texts for the four parts of the Rivered Earth tetralogy, an introduction to each part, and an extended general introduction detailing the genesis of the works and the creative and collaborative processes involved, including an account of “the pleasures and pains of working with a composer”.

The book was published in hardback by Hamish Hamilton in 2011, and in paperback and eBook by Penguin Books in 2012 (ISBN 978–0–41–04759–1).

Click here for details on the [Penguin Books website](#).