

blessing the boats
composed in memory of the Emanuel Nine of Charleston, SC

blessing the boats

may the tide
that is entering even now
the lip of our understanding
carry you out
beyond the face of fear
may you kiss
the wind then turn from it
certain that it will
love your back may you
open your eyes to water
water waving forever
and may you in your innocence
sail through this to that

– Lucille Clifton

Lucille Clifton, "blessing the boats" from *The Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton*. Copyright © 2000 by Lucille Clifton.
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Commissioned by Spoleto Festival USA
for the 40th Season Gala
May 28, 2016

Dedicated to Mayor Joe Riley
and the people of Charleston

Chorus and Orchestra

Flutes, 2 Oboes + English Horn, 2 Clarinets in B-flat, 2 Bass Clarinets in B-flat, 2 Bassoons
Trumpets, 3 Trombones, Tuba
Percussion, 7 Percussion (Vibraphone, Marimba, Chimes, Bass Drum, Tam Tam, Low Tom, Tambourine, 2 Chinese Cymbals,
Large Sandblocks, Ocean Drum, 2 Triangles)

pp
pp

Duration ca. 6'