

## Concord Hymn meaning

Emerson's poem the "Concord Hymn" was sung as a hymn in 1837 in Concord, Massachusetts at the completion of the Obelisk, a battle monument that commemorated the contributions of the people of Concord during the Battle of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775). This was the first battle of the [American Revolution](#). The poem signifies the struggle or the American war of Independence when the [13 colonies](#) of North American won independence from Britain and became known as the United States.

Rebuilt many times, the present bridge is a replica thought to be like the one that British redcoats marched across—and were then forced back across by Minutemen from Concord and nearby towns.

Today the North Bridge is among Concord's most beloved and visited sights.



## **Concord Hymn**

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

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 to-day 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.