橋をわたって
while I was crossing the bridge
version for marimba

Yuji Takahashi

senza tempo (*)

(*) mobile without beat without regularity

mute (= without rebound)
more evenly

accel.
E in tempo, leggiero
While I was crossing the bridge was originally written for the Japanese 17 string bass koto and was first performed by Kazue Sawai. The piece consists of two sections: an introduction and an improvisation based on the Vietnamese folk song Qua Cau Gio Bay (My vest was swept away by the wind while I crossed the bridge). In the introduction, the unfolding of the melodic material occurs very slowly, as in traditional Indian music. As the piece continues and variations of the original melody are heard the music picks up speed and the nature of the instrument is explored.

Qua Cau Gio Bay

I gave him my vest
When I came home, I told my parents
My vest was swept away by the wind
While I was crossing the bridge

I gave him my ring
When I came home, I told my parents
My ring was dropped
While I was crossing the bridge

I gave him my hat
When I came home, I told my parents
My hat was swept away by the wind
While I was crossing the bridge

橋をわたって（1984）

あのひとに上着をあげた
家に帰って父母に
橋をわたるとき風にとられた、と嘘ついた

あのひとに指輪をあげた
家に帰って父母に
橋をわたるとき落とした、と嘘ついた

あのひとに菅笠をあげた
家に帰って父母に
橋をわたるとき風にとられた、と嘘ついた