

C0007 • PRAYER DURING A THUNDERSTORM • Hiemstra • SSA, SATB, TTBB, or
Children's Choir

2023

PRAYER DURING A THUNDERSTORM

Music by
EMILY
HIEMSTRA
Poetry by
GAVIN
BARRETT

EAST CHAMBER
MUSIC

Perusal Copy Only



EAST CHAMBER
MUSIC

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Composer's Notes:

This piece reminds us of our smallness in the vast world around us. Barrett's poetry contemplates morality through the power and intensity of nature. Despite all the technological advances of our societies, severe weather serves as a vivid reminder that we are created beings within creation itself. Using the musical form of a round, I aimed to bring to life the turbulence and chaos so evident in storms. The added improvisational elements further enhance the untamed, unpredictable character of stormy weather.

Performance Notes:

It is a round, for a minimum of three singers up to large choir for any voice type (SSA, SATB, TTBB, children's choir). Performance length can vary between two to ten minutes, however it best suites the location or concert space. The bars on the lower half of the score labeled 1 2 3 4 are additional musical gestures that can be initiated at any time during the performance, either chorister or conductor led, again however best suites the ensemble. The piece ends when the final line of the round is all that is left, ending on amen, amen.

Other Notes:

Created through the Amadeus Choirs' Choral Creation Lab 2023.

Text:

In rain
let the water run
in lightning rivulets,
the moon out-silvered,
undone.

The gold in your glass
has no fire
like the sky.
And so we live
and so die.

This is how we pray
in rain.
We smell thunder
and turn to flame
with the wet amen.
Amen

Duration: 2-10 minutes



**EAST CHAMBER
MUSIC**

Prayer

during a thunderstorm

Gavin Barrett

Emily Hiemstra
b. 1991

Andante $\text{♩} = 72$

VOICE



A

In rain let the wat-er run in light-n'ing ri-vu-lets, the moon out sil-ver'd, un-done.

6



B

The gold in your glass has no fire like the sky and so we live and so die.

11



C

This is how we pray in rain. We smell thun-der and turn to flame with the wet a-men.

1
Let, let, let the wat-er run!

3
We pray,

4
Light n'ing, and thun-der!

2
shh oo ah! shh oo ah!

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About the composer

Emily Hiemstra (b. 1991) is a real life viola mom. She is a violist, composer and mom to four boys under 7.

A JUNO nominated composer with music that has been deemed “superb” and “extremely resonant” (George Elliott Clarke, Canadian Poet Laureate), she has had her music performed at festivals throughout the UK, USA and Canada. Such festivals include the Impulse New Music Festival (Los Angeles, USA) and the Kirby Laing Centre for Public Theology (Cambridge, UK). Her orchestral and operatic background as a performer has deepened her understanding of colour and texture which she readily applies in her compositions to create clear and innovative works. Her desire is to create relevant and engaging music for the next generation and future generations to come.

A dedicated community member, Emily creates opportunities for new music such as the New Works for Solo Viola Project. She also strives to bring new music to a wider community through the In The Shadow of Your Wings concert series and performing family-friendly chamber concerts around the GTA. She also on the board of the Association of Canadian Women Composers as the Outreach & Publicity Officer.

As a violist she has been heard on CBC Radio’s About Time with Tom Allen (2022), performed at festivals around the world including Banff Centre for the Arts (Banff, CAN) and the German-Scandinavian Youth Orchestra (Berlin, GER). She performed the Stamitz Viola Concerto with the Charis Collective in 2017, and has played with ensembles such as the Canadian Opera Company and the Magisterra Soloists.

You can find her playing concerts around London, ON or writing music when her boys are napping.