

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**

**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 suits 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 suits 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** ♩ = 72

**A**

VOICE

### **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.