

2023

# THE CARPENTER

Music by  
**EMILY  
HIEMSTRA**

Poetry by  
**STEVEN  
LAMBKE**



**EAST CHAMBER  
MUSIC**

**Composer's Notes:**

Carpenters have an interesting habit of quietly repeating the lengths of wood they are cutting, chanting under their breath as it were. Steve and I thought this meditative moment was worthy of musical encapsulation. I wanted to enhance that idea by drawing inspiration for the melody from southern spirituals or worksongs. I hope this piece is both meditative and satisfying for the audience and choir.

**Other Notes:**

Created through the Amadeus Choir's Choral Creation Lab 2023.

**Text:**

I am a kneeling carpenter  
Bent as if to pray  
The numbers that i'm mumbling  
I hope will fix the way

Build rebuild repair  
Until the end of day  
And then I bend to offer  
To build again tomorrow

I am an honest carpenter  
A carpenter's strong daughter  
Oh I could work the day in wood  
And fill the day with laughter

Build rebuild repair  
I sing from sill to rafters  
To meet the world at the door  
And build again tomorrow

**Duration:** 2 minutes



**EAST CHAMBER  
MUSIC**

# The Carpenter

Steven Lambke  
(b. 1978)

Emily Hiemstra  
(b.1991)

**Ballad** ♩ = 100

**SOPRANO**

I am a kneel ing car pent er bent as if to pray the num bers that I'm mumbl' ing I

**ALTO**

I am a kneel ing car-pent er bent as if to pray the num bers that I'm mumbl' ing I

**TENOR**

**BASS**

4

stomp! stomp! stomp!

hope will fix the way I am a kneel ing car pent - er bent as if to pray the

stomp! stomp! stomp!

hope will fix the way I am a kneel ing car-pent - er bent as if to pray the

I am a kneel-ing car pent - er bent as if to pray the

I am a kneel ing car pent er bent as if to pray the

Copyright © 2023 Music by Emily Hiemstra, Text by Steven Lambke. Published by East Chamber Music Inc. All rights reserved.

Purchase authorized editions at [www.eastchambermusic.com](http://www.eastchambermusic.com)

Unauthorized copying, distribution, or performance of this score is strictly prohibited.

Please report all performances and broadcasts to your local performance rights organization

7

num bers that I'm mumbl' ing I hope will fix the way Build re-build re -pair

num bers that I'm mumbl' ing I hope will fix the way Build re-build re - pair

num bers that I'm mumbl' ing I hope will fix the way Build re build re -pair

num bers that I'm mumbl' ing I hope will fix the way Build re build re pair

10

un til the end of day And then I bend to of -fer To build a -gain to mor ow. slap! slap!

un-til the end of day And then I bend to of -fer To build a -gain to mor -ow.

un til the end of day And then I bend to of -fer To build a -gain to -mor -ow. slap! slap!

un til the end of day And then I bend to of fer To build a gain to -mor -ow.

13

I am an hon est car pent er A car - pent er's strong daugh ter Oh

I am an hon - est car pent er A car - pent er's strong daugh ter Oh

I am an hon - est car pent er A car - pent er's strong daugh ter Oh

I am an hon - est car pent-er A car - pent er's strong daugh-ter Oh

15

I could work a day in the wood And fill the day with laugh-ter. Build re-build re pair

I could work a day in the wood And fill the day with laugh-ter. Build re build re-pair

I could work a day in the wood And fill the day with laugh-ter. Build re-build re pair

I could work a day in the wood And fill the day with laugh-ter. Build re build re pair

18

I sing from sill to raft ers To meet the world at the door And build a gain to mor ow.

I sing from sill to raft ers To meet the world at the door And build a gain to-mor ow.

I sing from sill to raft ers To meet the world at the door And build a gain to mor ow.

I sing from sill to raft ers To meet the world at the door And build a gain to mor ow.

21

I am a kneel-ing car pent - er bent as if to pray the num bers that I'm mumbl'ing I

I am a kneel ing car pent er bent as if to pray the num bers that I'm mumbl'ing I

24

Build re-build re-pair un til the end of day And

Build re-build re- pair un-til the end of day And

hope will fix the way Build re build re-pair un til the end of day And

hope will fix the way Build re build re pair un til the end of day And

27

then I bend to of-fer To build a-gain to mor ow. Build re build re pair

then I bend to of-fer To build a-gain to mor-ow. Build re build re pair

then I bend to of-fer To build a-gain to-mor-ow. Build re build re pair

then I bend to of fer To build a gain to-mor-ow. Build re build re pair

30

I sing from sill to raft ers To meet the world at the door And build a-gain to mor ow.

I sing from sill to raft ers To meet the world at the door And build a gain to mor ow.

I sing from sill to raft ers To meet the world at the door And build a-gain to mor ow.

I sing from sill to raft ers To meet the world at the door And build a gain to mor ow.

33

build a-gain to mor ow. And build a-gain to mor-ow.

build a gain to mor ow. And build a-gain to mor-ow.

build a-gain to mor ow. And build a-gain to mor-ow.

build a gain to mor ow. And build a-gain to mor-ow.