

ROUNDER SONGS

An Appalachian Song Cycle
for Voice, Banjo and Chamber Ensemble



Rounder Songs — for voice, banjo and chamber ensemble — brings together North American old-time and 21st century post-minimalist classical music. The immersive, multi-movement work is based on tunes and folk tales from Kentucky and West Virginia that tell the stories of several “rounders,” including a gambler, a murderer, and a mill laborer who strikes a deal with the devil. Old-time and classical genres merge in gorgeous adaptations inspired by field recordings of The Hammons Family, Addie Graham, Arthur D. Johnson and Roscoe Holcomb.

Created by Emily Pinkerton and Patrick Burke (who are also a married couple), **Rounder Songs** focuses on the common ground between their musical worlds: hypnotic, pulsing rhythms; subtle melodic variation over time; and perhaps most of all, the vivid evocation of certain moods. Each of the five movements is accompanied by projections of original artwork by painter Joanne Wiggins. In murder ballad “Pretty Polly,” the darkness of the song is brought to chilling life with a full depiction of the narrative in video.



Since 2019, Emily has partnered with fivebyfive to deliver driving, emotive performances with voice, banjo, flute, clarinet, guitar, piano and bass—from the interlocking textures of “Red Rocking Chair” to the heart-rending harmonies of “Three Forks of Hell.” First released in 2017 on New Amsterdam

Records, *Rounder Songs* has been performed at National Sawdust, Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert Series, Tutti Fest at Denison University, Music on the Edge at the University of Pittsburgh, and has had multiple features on WNYC’s New Sounds with John Schaefer.

Emily and fivebyfive offer a range of outreach activities (workshops, clinics or lecture-demonstrations on old-time music. The piece is 30 minutes long and can be combined with sets of traditional music, original songs or contemporary chamber works, including a new chamber-folk project by Emily called **Ephemera Ballads**.

FOR BOOKING AND MORE
INFORMATION:

5BY5MUSIC@GMAIL.COM
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Honest and intriguing, Rounder Songs unites the traditional with the modern in a stunning, beautiful fashion.

POPMATTERS



...the dream-like reverie mesmerizes in the way banjo picking blends with a rich and ever-coursing swirl of woodwinds and piano.

fivebyfivemusic.com | emilypinkerton.com

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