

# Because of this house poetry

 > ABOUT > STORIES

When we ask Habitat homeowners what their homes make possible for them, their answers — just as they share them with us — fit together like poetry. The powerful poetry of lives changed and futures transformed.

## Because of this house

The struggle is behind me now.  
No more stress, no more pressure.  
I'm independent.  
I can live more freely.  
I can go forward.  
I have a new outlook on life.  
I feel very empowered.  
I know who I am, and I know I matter.  
I've been able to complete my education.  
I can save more.  
I have financial freedom.  
I am no longer in a poverty mindset.  
We are much healthier.  
My children flourished.  
Everything changed.  
I am home.

Because of the houses they help build, more families are home. Because of the houses you help build, more families can know everything that “home” makes possible.

“Each part of this house has somebody's sweat, somebody's prayers, somebody who gave. This was built with love.”

Rebecca Fernandez

**2. Take This Hammer**  
traditional work song  
adapted by Gwyneth Walker

Take this hammer,  
Take it to the foreman.  
Take this hammer,  
take it to the foreman.  
Take this hammer,  
take it to the foreman,  
tell him (her) that I'm workin', workin', workin' hard today.

Take this hammer and saw,  
take them to the foreman,  
tell him (her) that I'm workin', workin', workin' hard today.

Take this hammer and saw and plane,  
take them to the foreman,  
tell him (her) that I'm workin', workin', workin' hard today.

Take this hammer and saw and plane and drill,  
take them to the foreman,  
tell him (her) that I'm workin' hard, workin' hard,  
workin' hard, workin' hard today!

## Hammer poem

I've been working all day long,  
I'm weary to the core.  
My only friends are a hammer and saw...  
and a plane to level the door.

Oh, bring me friends with sturdy hands,  
a drill and staple gun.  
And we shall work from dawn 'til dusk,  
until this house is done!

Or...

(with tools laid out on a table or music stand, reader lifts tools when they are mentioned)

[read rhythmically, similar to the ballad "Take This Hammer"]

Take this hammer, take it to the foreman,  
(repeat twice)  
tell him (her) that I'm workin', workin', workin' hard today.

Take this hammer and nails and saw, take them to the foreman,  
(repeat twice)  
tell him (her) that I'm workin', workin', workin' hard today.

Take this hammer and nails and saw and drill,  
take them to the foreman,  
(repeat twice)  
tell him (her) that I'm workin', workin', workin' hard today!

**I'm Buildin' Me a Home**  
traditional song  
lyrics adapted by Gwyneth Walker

I'm buildin' me a home.  
I'm buildin' me a home.  
This earthly house gonna soon decay.  
My soul's gotta have somewhere to stay.

When I hear The Word,  
I'm buildin' me a home.  
When I hear The Word,  
I'm buildin' me a home.  
This earthly house gonna soon decay.  
My soul's gotta have somewhere to stay.

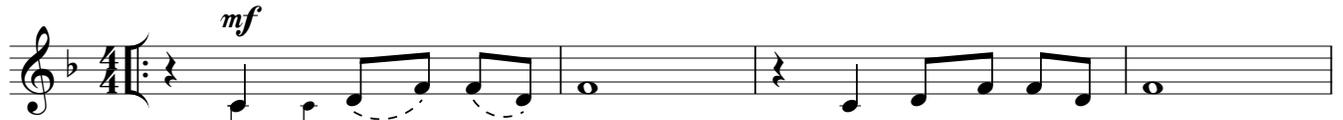
When I rise up singing (I rise in song),  
I'm buildin' me a home.  
When I rise up singing (I rise in song),  
I'm buildin' me a home.  
This earthly house gonna soon decay.  
My soul's gotta have somewhere to stay.

# I'm Buildin' Me a Home

Traditional

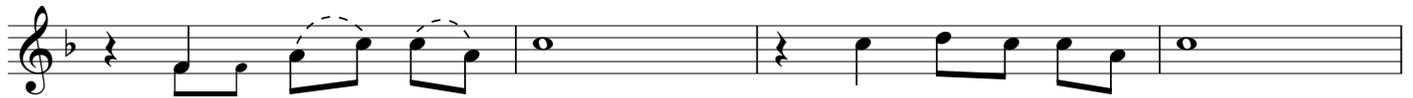
Gwyneth Walker, arr.

**Moderate tempo** (♩ = 132)  
(swing eighths)



1. I'm build - in' me a home.  
2. When I hear — The — Word,

I'm build - in' me a home.  
I'm build - in' me a home.



I'm build - in' me a home.  
When I hear — The — Word,

I'm build - in' me a home.  
I'm build - in' me a home.



This earth - ly house — gon - na soon de - cay.



my soul's got - ta have

some - where — to stay.

Optional 2 measure rhythmic pattern which may be played behind the singing. Voice enters in m. 2 (or m. 4).

