

Gather You, Gather Me

At the water's edge a white rose shivers in the spray A D A E
Petals scatter on the dunes as the dunes roll away A D A E A
Like chaff before the autumn wind, sheep on barren ground
Like a child sleeping in the streets of someone else's town

Gather you, gather me A E
From wherever we may roam D A E
Gather all who wander in the wild D A Bm F#m
Seeking the fires of home D A E
Gather you, gather me D A (E as bridge)

When the thunder came to Babylon the tower could not rise
Stones as big as a rich man's house tumbled from the skies
And all the children of the earth scattered through the land
A thousand nations tongue-tied and blinded by the sand
Chorus

The compass rose is spinning, captain says beware
The pinch of earth in my weak hand has vanished in the air
Oh will that rose be read again when sunlight scatters haze
And the ember at the flower's heart leads us through the maze?
Chorus

The final track on the Skip Yarrow CD "Gather," with Andrée and me on vocals. It draws on traditional Biblical imagery to plead for a return of community in a scattered time.