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## Hammered Dulcimer

Lisa Williams

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Project MUSE., <https://muse.jhu.edu/>.



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## A SPIDER

So many lines about the wind I weave.  
So many lines, some of them taut  
with particular gestures, some of them caught  
on the edge of a house, or torn  
and flapping in a violent storm.  
So many thought-weighted, rock-ripped, time-worn  
in the obstructed present.  
No two the same, none spun as magnificently  
as I aim them to be, most blown away.  
All I can do is wind what courses through  
my spirit, trembling instrument—old battered frame  
on which the elements pour, play on, accrue  
(I'd call it a lyre, but that would be too gay)  
then send those filaments of soul  
into sheer absence, needling the material  
with a pronged and strange capacity.  
The lines I make begin to shake things free  
and yet fold brilliant glimmers of their colors  
into a tapestry both false and brave.  
At first, I only grasped the threads of others  
but soon learned all would break, and none would save.  
So many lines about the wind I weave.