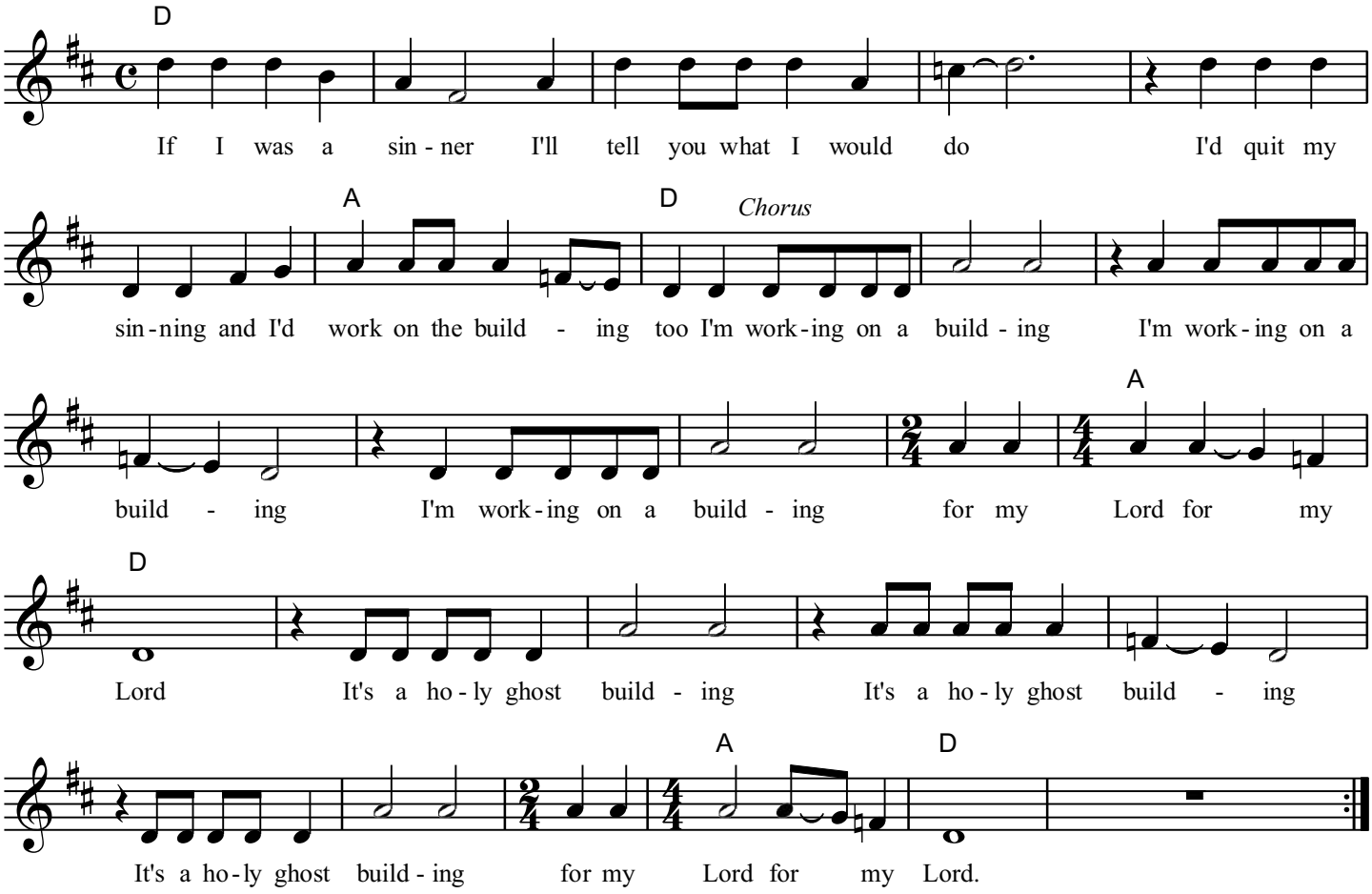
# Working On a Building

Traditional Old-Time and Bluegrass Song; **DATE:** Early 1900's; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Carter Family-1934; J.E. Mainer-1946; Bill Monroe-1954; Old & In The Way; **OTHER NAMES:** I'm Working On a Building; **NOTES:** The spiritual song " Working On a Building" recorded in Odum & Johnson, *The Negro and His Songs* (1925, p. 72): "I'm workin' on the building fer my Lord/Fer my Lord, fer my Lord" seems to be on of the earliest versions. Charles K. Wolfe says in notes to *The Carter Family: Longing for Old Virginia* (Rounder CD): Another "Holiness song" [in addition to "Hello Central, Give Me Heaven"] was "I'm Working on a Building," still current in gospel repertoires today. Bill Monroe recorded this gospel song, with origins in African American spiritual traditions, for Decca in 1954 on the same day he cut "On and On.".




© 2006 by Mel Bay Publications, Inc. BMI
All Rights Reserved.

**D**
If I was a sinner, I'll tell you what I would do
(2nd verse gambler) **A** **D**
I'd quit my sinning and I'd work on the building too
(2nd verse gambling)

**Chorus:** I'm working on a building, I'm working on a building,
**A** **D**
I'm working on a building for my Lord, for my Lord!

It's a Holy Ghost building, it's the Holy Ghost building,
**A** **D**
It's a Holy Ghost building, for my Lord, for my Lord!