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Listening

Jill Spealman
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Listening

Jill Spealman

I lie quietly, listening.

At the end of summer the crickets and katydids combine
in a singing tremolo.

Already enough leaves have fallen to hear the freight trains
again,

their industrious clattering beat dissipates in a soft whistle.

Crescendo—a thumping bass line floats by,
usually quarter notes—decrescendo.

In my ear is my own heartbeat
against a hiss and a swirling whine.

Down the hall, our old dog snores and yips
softly

at imaginary rabbits.

You snore.

I lie quietly, listening.

Natalia Toreeva,
Woman and Flute. Mixed media