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An American in Paris

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AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

Freyda Libman

He heard his music in the madness of cities,
in the sassy blare of taxis,
steely riot of engines,
throb of heartbeats commingled
in a nameless wail of souls on fire.

He conjured his clarinets,
charmed the shiny throats of saxophones
along the tree-lined boulevards,
cast his dusky song upon the Seine
where lovers drape themselves in moonlight,
tucked ebony bookmarks of jazz
into the pages of Paris bookstalls.

Child of Ellis Island,
his Steinway sang for the street
and polished stage of concert halls,
sang the syncopation of dreams,
hustling his bright chords to seal
humanity in a covenant vibrating forever
in the fluency of Manhattan twilights.