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Once Conductor

Lee Kesselman
College of DuPage

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The Achievement of Love

Kesselman: Once Conductor

Haiku In 4/4.

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ONCE CONDUCTOR

Frank, the craggy skin-stretched skull
who is all arms, brain veins,
and a bundle of ageless nerves.
A portrait of mine own,
most eccentriclee.
The conductor, in 30 years, I will be.
Timing every anthem,

I opened your door with tenderness
Pulled at it with style
Anticipating all the while
To find within your hold
The fruits for which my labor's sold
Soothing wine to quench my thirst
Food for which my hunger cursed

Dancing with confusion
Of how you are thee
Triggers the force within
Captures the moment you can win
Dare say you not believe
Seek truth and perceive

On the one I miss
Only to find cold dark emptiness

Lee Kesselman

Sing praise to the power of coffee!
That oh-so-refreshing drink,
That clears early morning cobwebs,
Enabling the mind to think.

We are not for this wonderful beverage
How tired, how droopy I'd be.
It gives a dependable leverage
'Gainst the sluggishness plaguing me.

A daily excuse for a work-break,
and the donuts we all consume
This medium for friendship and gossip
adds warm fragrance to any room.

So, sing out the glories of coffee!
Let your pancreas do what it may —
There's no better snail, say what you will
to help me through the day.

Judy Hess

Orchestral phrasing
Freebird

Deborah Thomas

SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGE

O men of science, please find a placebo,
Sedation for an overworked libido,
A wonder drug to heal a wounded ego,
Dream up an unrequited — love injection,
A cure not a cold but cold rejection,
An antidote against man's non-affection,
Forget the smearproof lipsticks, smoothing lotions,
Invent, instead some good face-saving potions,
Unguents and oils to smooth disturbed emotions.

Come, boys, concoct a cooling balm
To guarantee platonic calm,
A numbing shot of anesthesia
To offset masculine amnesia,
Vaccines that might inoculate us
Against the male who would deflate us,
To counteract a potent lack
. . . and anti-aphrodisiac.

Get with it, friends, and give us, for a start
A tranquilizer for the troubled heart.

Kathy Schmidt

Frigidare

'The girl smiled and handed me a weasel sandwich.

by Tammy Wyenott

Japanese haiku

Scott Barnard

Joan Bingham

Vietnamese

Pnirh

Page 1