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Szechuan Shrimp

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Szechuan Shrimp

Wilda Morris

For jazz composer Orbert Davis

If you were sitting at the round table
with the rest of your quintet
what music would fashion itself
in your mind, reverberate
for the first time in your ears?

Would the drummer open
the egg roll into a cadenza,
the cellist pluck shrimp
from the Szechuan sauce,
the saxophone string out
the bamboo strips,
while your trumpet announced
the red peppers?

Would the pianist give the cookie
fortune a unique interpretation?