

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**T**HE earliest poetry was fused with music, movement, and song, and this connection remains an essential part of the poetic impulse even today. As the poet Victor Hernández Cruz says in the interview that kicks off this issue, “You gotta have music to be able to write.” The task of the poet, he says, is to learn of “the silent spaces and musical sounds” in poems, to find “your own personal rhythm of awareness.”

In a piece on Walter Dean Myers’ new children’s book on jazz, Steven Karl tells how Myers created poems to echo the rhythms and flow of the music itself. Paired with vibrant illustrations by his son, the artist Christopher Myers, these poems mine the rich territory where poetry, music, and art come together. Leonore Gordon gives lively and practical advice on bringing music into the poetry classroom, and Ann Keniston details the development of the ode—a poetic form originally accompanied by dance as well as music—and praises its use as a “sales pitch for poetry” when teaching. For those who feel they have no voice at all in the larger culture, the New York Writers Coalition, profiled here by Susan Bittenwieser, offers a myriad of ways to be heard. This issue’s focus on the music of poetry ends, appropriately enough, with a meditation by Christian McEwen on the necessity of opening yourself to quietness. Not only the creative life, she writes, but the work itself requires silence as much as it requires sound. We wish you the blessings of both in the new year.

— Susan Karwoska

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Winter 2006-2007 Issue

<b>The Music That Is Yourself</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>An Interview with Victor Hernández Cruz</i> Urayoán Noel	
<b>Start With Rhythm</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>A New Book Invites Children to Explore the World of Jazz through Poetry and Images</i> Steven Karl	
<i>IN THE CLASSROOM</i>	
<b>“The Midnight Rabbit Jumps Through the Sky”</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Welcoming Music into Your Poetry Curriculum</i> Leonore Gordon	
<b>Getting the Word Out</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>The New York Writers Coalition Helps Develop both Voice and Audience for those Who Have Neither</i> Susan Bittenwieser	
<i>THE LITERARY ANATOMY</i>	
<b>Elementary Odes</b>	<b>27</b>
<i>Singing the Praises of the Ordinary World</i> Ann Keniston	
<b>World Enough and Time</b>	<b>37</b>
<i>Some Notes on Poetry</i> Christian McEwen	