

The Searching Sings

Rae Crossman

no bird song verb ever can be found
no cataract chant
no wind wail

no syllables as sibilant as reed whisper
no tumble of words into waves

what voice can rain

how can lungs thunder
mouths crack the trunk of a tree
how can lips make runnels
roar into rapids

who knows how to hum summer
like the cicada

who knows how to tongue
the notes of sleet

yet the howl of a wolf
will answer the howl of a man

loons on a lake
will cry when called

and the mountain return
the shout of its name

no bird song verb ever can be found
but in the searching
sings a resonant sound

and song is telling
what can't be told

song is awe made bold

song is blood flow
song is bone

song is the silence of stone

song is leap
between heart and bird

song is spirit heard

Rae Crossman, program director of "Waterloo Unlimited" at the University of Waterloo, writes poetry for the page and for oral performance. His collaborative projects include storytelling, choral compositions, and outdoor theatrical pieces.