

DOUBLE
ISSUE

CELEBRATING NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

CONTENTS

AUTHOR BIOS FOLLOW AFTER POEM 48.

1. SPRING EMOTION

ADRIANA DASCÁLU

2. READING BASHO

DAVID DENNY

3. FARMHOUSE

DIANA MANISTER

4. SPRING

JOHN J. HAN

5. ROYAL RED CRABAPPLE

MEREDITH DRAKE

6. HUELO SUNRISE

MARK KAPLON

7. *

JOHN GREY

8. *

ED BREMSON

9. THE FLOWERING FRUIT TREE

RAMESH ANAND

10. *

RAMESH ANAND

11. THE INTERRUPTER

JESSICA KLIMESH

12. *

SARA WILLIAMS

13. *

JESSICA KLIMESH

14. WIDOWER

JULIUS JORTNER

15. GHOST OF THE POEM

ALYSSA YANKWITT

16. *

ANGIE WERREN

17. *

IVO DRURY

18. *

SARAH CORBETT MORGAN

19. WHISKEY

ALYSSA YANKWITT

20. THE BLUE GLASS

DIANA MANISTER

21. *

SONDRA BYRNES

22. GREEN THUMB

JUDITH STEELE

23. LACUNE

IVO DRURY

24. *

JOHN J. HAN

ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

CONTENTS

AUTHOR BIOS FOLLOW AFTER POEM 48

25. ANALOGUE MUSIC REVIEW IV

DANIEL MAHONEY

26. *

MICHAEL ANDREW DOHERTY

27. *

GRACIE HAMILTON

28. IN GIVERNY

LORI LIPSKY

29. READING POETRY IN NEW ZEALAND

ELISABETH WOOD

30. *

PENNY VISSER

31. DAWNING

MARTHA CHRISTINA

32. PIXIE

REBECCA BEAUCHAMP

33. STRAWBERRY FIELDS

MINDY ATOR

34. HATCHED

MARTHA CHRISTINA

35. SUNSET, SCHULLER GRADE

TERRY MARTIN

36. BLUE WREN

ROB WALKER

37. WETLY

ROBERT DAVEY

38. SIGHTING ON A CEMETERY STROLL

REBECCA BEAUCHAMP

39. BROTHER, I BEG YOU, FOLLOW ME

SARA WILLIAMS

40. DE SECA

RYN HOLMES

41. APRIL NIGHT

VIKAS SHARMA

42. *

SONDRA BYRNES

43. OUTSHINE

STEVEN MINCHIN

44. LIKE MOON-SWEPT STONE

MARK KAPLON

45. ANALOGUE MUSIC REVIEW I

DANIEL MAHONEY

46. SUNRISE ON THE CARIBBEAN

SARAH CORBETT MORGAN

47. PELICAN PATROL

MAX MERCKENSCHLAGER

48. FISHING THE MILKY WAY

WILLIAM CULLEN, JR.

ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

SPRING EMOTION

The spirits of spring returned
Dancing madly, singing the nature.
On butterfly wings was burned
The scent of our future.

ADRIANA DASCĂLU

READING BASHO

My morning monologue
interrupted by the sweet
scent of plum blossoms.

DAVID DENNY

FARMHOUSE

Frostflowers at dawn filling
the window before it warms,
a moment's disclosure thin as
a whisper before it's withdrawn.

DIANA MANISTER

SPRING

spring thaw ...
ice cream truck music
permeates the air
children pour out of the winter

JOHN J. HAN

ROYAL RED CRABAPPLE

The tree
I wish we had
blooms in my
imagination.

MEREDITH DRAKE

HUELO SUNRISE

From the deep bosom
of its petals, unfurl
with a pollen-dusted stamen
flavors of hibiscus-red

MARK KAPLON

*

dew drips
from lip cup
to the leaf below—
I skipped school for this.

JOHN GREY

*

the old pond—
almost lunch time
for the heron and me

ED BREMSON

THE FLOWERING FRUIT TREE

spring blossoms —
memories of father
slicing the fruits

RAMESH ANAND

*

rain
of cherry blossoms — remaining spring

RAMESH ANAND

THE INTERRUPTER

he's out on a limb, reading a poem;
she stops him right there

and there. and there.

JESSICA KLIMESH

*

This finch
stitched loops
on my lips, belted
my mouth and sang.

SARA WILLIAMS

*

how quiet it is in the gossamer lamplight:
our letters sound the same

and the moon floats in the glass

JESSICA KLIMESH

WIDOWER

I pretend to live here
among your things
in the house I sleep in
on one side of the bed

JULIUS JORTNER

GHOST OF THE POEM

night leans in
and I let it

ALYSSA YANKWITT

*

he likes to drink tea
an ancient turned-earth smell
clings
to damp crushed leaves

ANGIE WERREN

*

a crescent moon at perigee
she wanted to leap to its apex
and bottom-slide her way to earth

IVO DRURY

*

An intricate shadow
cast on smooth pond stones.
The fern becomes a ghost fossil.

SARAH CORBETT MORGAN

WHISKEY

order it straight up
must be 5 o'clock somewhere
close your eyes swallow

ALYSSA YANKWITT

THE BLUE GLASS

No one denied it flew through
the room and shattered,
we only noted that nobody
threw it, because that mattered.

DIANA MANISTER

*

crocuses—
when the world is wounded

SONDRA BYRNES

GREEN THUMB

Sage for tea and wisdom

Geranium for scented strength

Basil for pasta, Borage for wine

Marigold for light.

JUDITH STEELE

LACUNE

for all his learning
and the heft of his lexicon
lacking the mastery
of reading ellipses

IVO DRURY

*

moonlit walk
stumbling over the shadow
of branches

JOHN J. HAN

ANALOGUE MUSIC REVIEW IV

Chopped and screwed, white tee
slow beats looped and scratched.
The dude abides: all
geeked up in Vermont.

DANIEL MAHONEY

*

Coyote
Tugs at sleep
Nothing else
Stirs

MICHAEL ANDREW DOHERTY

*

the street fair buzzes
my mother learns the Merengue
in the town square
I lean into a wall of flowers

GRACIE HAMILTON

IN GIVERNY

Harvested haystacks
outside Monet's farmhouse door—
he paints them
two dozen times.

LORI LIPSKY

READING POETRY IN NEW ZEALAND

I guzzle succulent compliments
from frozen frambozen ripple lips,
tucking them under a Southern Cross
until I've drunk them all.

ELISABETH WOOD

*

the next morning
picking the candle wax
from the table

PENNY VISSER

DAWNING

Another morning
without crows, as if
I'd only imagined
their voices, and yours.

MARTHA CHRISTINA

PIXIE

She pirouettes on my heart,
pitting it with the grit
of stardust.

REBECCA BEAUCHAMP

STRAWBERRY FIELDS

Sunlight winks back
from the cut glass jelly jars
filling the room
with color and laughter.

MINDY ATOB

HATCHED

Silken shelters
under bark, stones, and leaves:
little gypsy encampments,
abandoned.

MARTHA CHRISTINA

SUNSET, SCHULLER GRADE

Fill your empty place with this horizon.
Hold it all lightly and sit here,
the taste of evening in your mouth.

TERRY MARTIN

BLUE WREN

A shard of sky
fallen to earth
won't stop
convulsing

ROB WALKER

WETLY

wetly settling on the hill
a cloud browses on bracken
then one by one
consumes the trees

ROBERT DAVEY

SIGHTING ON A CEMETERY STROLL

Bright pink lip print
on gray granite marker.
Earthly desperation
to penetrate the veil.

REBECCA BEAUCHAMP

BROTHER, I BEG YOU, FOLLOW ME

Electric ghost currents run
through us darkly;
a strum sets us back—
back where it began, in the noise.

SARA WILLIAMS

DE SECA

Dark smelling blue wind
with lilacs raining beneath—
my hair is on fire.

RYN HOLMES

APRIL NIGHT

Raindrops by my window
Like distant drums in slow tempo
To the music
We dance

VIKAS SHARMA

*

spring wind—
he couldn't stop talking
about his run

SONDRA BYRNES

OUTSHINE

Out breaking clouds
To let the sun blind us
To bring something out
Out in the open, and beyond us

STEVEN MINCHIN

LIKE MOON-SWEPT STONE

is the skin of her face:
too distant, and too still,
for my lips just-here
to kiss

MARK KAPLON

ANALOGUE MUSIC REVIEW I

Soundtrack to
a documentary film:
broken maritime toys
sailing back to London.

DANIEL MAHONEY

SUNRISE ON THE CARIBBEAN

The sun blazes a shimmering exclamation point on a pewter sea.

SARAH CORBETT MORGAN

PELICAN PATROL

without signal or word
casting though-nets they sew
to encircle and herd
liquid silver below

MAX MERCKENSCHLAGER

FISHING THE MILKY WAY

Heaven's River the Japanese say
as if meteors disappearing into it
were souls being cast back
into the eternal current.

WILLIAM CULLEN, JR.

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Four and Twenty is an online poetry journal focused on short form poetry. We specifically seek out fresh and emerging voices to include in the journal. Our guidelines are simple. All poems must be four lines or fewer in length and contain no more than twenty words (hence, *Four and Twenty*). A new issue of the journal is released the third Tuesday of each month.

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