

Swan Song

— for Calvin Simmons, conductor
born April 27 1950, died August 23 1982

Keith Bienert

sounds devolve into explosion
in the beginning of the counter industrial revolution

Calvin Simmons
like a fine wire (fine as astral thread)
conducted the mind of Mahler
until it lit up in their brains
like a filament of colored light
in a vacuum

in August
after twenty-six years
to make himself an instrument of light
to bring a master back to life
(back from the water and the earth)
after the wind had made the water boil
at Connery Pond
policemen drag the lake and chew tobacco
while they smile

2.

dressed in black and white
the deadly desert terror beasts
lob bombs over the net of fear
that surrounds the city
in the dry sand

and in the moment
the first bomb
hangs above the city
hanging like oppression
or the secrets of
alphabet soup government agencies
in the static air

in that moment
when wicked gravity
becomes a beam of sound
the net
(the net of fear which might as well be a net of hate)
shatters

3.

and the retrograde evolution of the mind
(remember Venus)
will punch it back
through a door
from technology to magick
(perhaps even to God)

in either case
the mind will be freed
(by destruction of the body
or by the body standing in the doorway
from insight to oversight
with the mind)

4.

a shining sphere
explodes in colors
above the square of palms

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light debris
along the edges of the blast
mixes slowly pastel
toward the stars
that pulse higher above the headstones
(where the freed auras blend)

as the masses expand
and vibrant colors
violate the darkness
another force
(as great as the force that powers the mind)
compresses the blast
creating swirls of debris
like whirling galaxies
colliding beyond the edge of the universe

both explosions
are the effects of change
(moved by the same force that powers the mind)
a force found singing beyond the perimeter
(like a filament of colored light in a vacuum)
a force that opens the rose
and drops the seed of revolution