

Robert Gibbons

This Banging Refrain

Simply can't afford it is this banging
refrain knocking against skull,
not necessarily stuck here,

when Coltrane comes on
on Duke's *Solitude*
& you can center

yourself on
Donald Byrd's resonant
trumpet, friends in distant

touch from Naples, Palermo,
Amsterdam, Brussels, Mexico City,
all but one been to before, when getting

somewhere was affordable,
even if I slept outside
for weeks at a time,

skipped any fine
establishment,
but stayed

high alright, nonetheless,
& not sure now whether I want
to go to Naples, Palermo, Amsterdam,

Brussels, Mexico City, or stay here
with her, books, random jazz that
hints at meaning from above,

or down below.