

Steve Carll

Questions 70 & Up

Would Boston and Chicago share a bill in Kansas?
What did America learn about itself
during all those tours of Asia
and vice versa?

Yes,
the divine right of King Crimson
is rushing to its genesis
at Emerson Lake
and palm trees glow
where my Rosemary throws
her sage and thyme

space is the stage
and time merely its Ohio player
which struts and frets
and straps us into the love rollercoaster
from which we'll fall to our death
while Phil Collins
watches indifferently

On the Air and In It

Who can get into a kissing mood
with all those screaming seagulls around?

Anyway, my college radio shows
were all about the collage ratios

trying to get the tuning forks to spoon
on the knife edge of the gap
between tracks in the vinyl

If I were a partridge in ecstasy
I might buy myself a liarbird maybe

he could take the flocks under his wing
managing their murmurations
from spoonbill to forktail

and if they want to fly like rock 'n roll stars I'd
crossfade out of tomorrow never knows
into their release

Future Futures

Fellow undertakers!
Tomorrow's universe remains
eggbound stunted

Why so civil warry
o cataclysmic cousins?

The future's like a hot air balloon--
Gas it up with hardblow or Viagra
as you will, controlling
or even predicting its trajectory
is a tragicomic endeavor

False unification turns
unglued rapidly, eh Sun?

I'd sooner ride Silver
into Terre Haute,
then slip into the Fifth Dimension's DMs

to await that
Fabulous ubiquity translating
upward responsiveness everywhere

see?

Gnossienne

wandering down taciturn semitones
with Satie, I imagine him watching
a slow procession of all things
to world's end determined
to bear it witness in dignified sadness

when I hear It Don't Come Easy's
Leslie'd guitar intro
I want to sing Let It Rain instead

but I can stop that any time I want
if it's not too late to turn back now
after all if you don't know me by now

I'm a rocket man
a honky cat
a horse with no heart of gold

alone again (naturally)
at the once-dry now-broken levee
missing the last piece of American pie.