

“Emperor Concerto”

How did he do this,
except from great love,
bring forth this music
that touches our deepest silences,
frees those
birds long caged
to sing against
a bright noon sky,
each note now shielding,
now revealing
the brilliance
that is salvation,
that is annihilation,
that is neither,
that is both.

M.S. Rooney © 2012

M.S. Rooney lives in Sonoma, California, with her husband, poet Dan Noreen. Her work appears in journals and anthologies including *The Cortland Review*, *Earth's Daughters*, *FutureCycle*, *Lilliput Review*, *Main Street Rag*, and *3 AM Magazine*.