

America...
 I wonder, will you,
 how in the world will you,
 hold the parts together?
 When the castle is primal
 and the mortar is sugar and the
 sugar
 is loosening,
 & we're all just a bunch of kids?

America! Your drummers are drumming, your
 guitars are playing,
 your archers are singing, your harmonies rise,
 arrows fall in a single
 rain.
 What is harmony but near collision?
 Sweet swerve, then a spin into alignment—
 notes held as the body wishes to be
pulled by the moon through amplified air
along the curve of the earth
in tremolo...
 a guitar turned on edge like a wing,
 or the tail of a comet swept behind
 by speed—

Upstream, downstream, trickles of laughter,
 tambourines, and everybody's twenty
 and dreaming of that mountain where songs
 and war is as gone as summer's
 milkweed floating past the latitudes.
 America! Your Virgil of northern skies,
 your Cupid in plaid, Neil smiles
 over the scene, from his castle-on-a cloud,
 at the pastoral, the hormonal,
 the colors and counter-colors, the lovers on
 their rides hooked out to stars,
 this one turning, that one coming 'round.
 Music's swirling, girls girling 'round
 young knights jamming on air guitar,
 leaning on their denim, leaning on their cars—
 wooling cinnamonon knees & paisley flowers
 to the torn patchwork bibles of their jeans.

It's always a country fair after sunset,
 the lights of rides turning on one-
 by-one, twinkling in harmony with a
 watermelon sky spilling sugar-pink
 juice into clouds jet, gold, silver-lined.
 It's shooting-stars, still hurricane time,
 approaching autumn, a fork
 in the road. Couples rise in the sky
 on the turning wheel,
 others tilt-and-whirl through calliope music.
 Under the tent the band plays. All Neil Young.
 Some drift away. She wants to stay
 and dance. He wants to slip between
 the parked cars, down to the river,
 lay in golden-rod blaze...

Whenever I hear Neil Young

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by Girl Friday

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Origami Poetry Projects

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Dedicated to the Forever Young Band

RI's Neil Young tribute band

Slater Park, September 2010