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Sixth Street Symphony

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Sixth Street Symphony

Leah Zuidema

September twilight, half past eight,
open windows:

Down the block,
the slippery baritone slurs
of a fifth grader, hugging his euphonium—
the first in a long queue of awkward, sweaty embraces.

On the edge of town,
in a field of new foundations and frames,
a front-end loader pulses
into reverse, an electronic
metronome:
beat. beat. beat.
Gears grind.
Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.

In shadowy blue dew,
The rubber band buzz
of cicadas in our maple;
on the highway half mile south,
semi's rumble steadily westward,
hauling the wind behind them.

And here, in the piano room,
my youngest punches mercilessly
at white key sevenths,
dissonant moonscapes fleeing her fingers.