

# TAKE HEART

## A Conversation in Poetry

*Edited & Introduced by Wesley McNair,  
Maine Poet Laureate*

Over the years Thomas Carper of Cornish has published his accomplished sonnets in some of this country's best literary magazines. Today's sample links piano music at twilight with the art of Corot.

### A Piano at Evening

*by Thomas Carper*

*Il étonne lentement.*

(He astonishes slowly.)

--Baudelaire, on the paintings of Corot

The music she's performing, while the sun  
Sinks down, comes softly through an open door  
Into the evening calm, and has begun  
Altering all we thought we'd known before.  
The bushes by the porch, a dusty green  
Throughout the inattentions of the day,  
Now look more deeply colored, with a sheen  
That glimmers as we pause to hear her play.  
And now the fine proportions of a tree  
Are vivid. While arpeggios declare  
Her mastery of the difficult, we see  
New symmetries, as vistas everywhere  
By slow astonishment are rearranged.  
We walk on toward a growing darkness, changed.

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