

TAKE HEART

A Conversation in Poetry

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

Today the incomparable Mekeel McBride of Kittery describes the singing of the mockingbird.

Mockingbird

by Mekeel McBride

The mockingbird's a live encyclopedia
of song, Listen, it can be
the whole world humming to itself:
tinsel consonant of wind
in love with whatever its silken glove
touches, never touches,

and then again it's just the normal chatter
of thrust or grackle.

The mockingbird's own song? Difficult
to hear in this aria that includes
news from every absent bird,
but slightly richer. All night

it stays awake, slipping its glad opera
into the delicate bone cage
of the Emperor's or your sleeping
ear. For this, the glass blower wakes
and weeps, knowing how frail his world is
and imperfect.

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