
CONTENTS

I. The Fret Cycle

Fret (A Tune Near Composition in the Studio)	3
A Note from Cathy at Yaddo	4
The Lesson for Paul on Catherine Clarke's Birthday	5
Fret in the Woods	6
Table Notice	7
Fret Skips Town for a Gig in New London	10
Fret Deep in the Woods	11
Fret Leaves Yaddo	12
Ghost of Fret at High Table: Mansion	13
Fret's News from the Front: Yaddo After	14
Martini Glasses Galore	15
Fret Shows Up at the Metropolitan	16
The List: Yaddo	17
Fret Leaves Yaddo in Disguise	18
Fret Having Survived Modernity	19
Fret Discovers the Blues, Again	20
Ass	21
Fret in Studio with the Ancestors	23
Fret Finds the Instrument of Archipelago	24
Mt. Pleasant Local Library	24
Fret Finds the Open Field	25

II. Use Trouble

A Photographic Guide to the City	31
Use Trouble	34
Portrait: (Jay Saunders Redding at Sayles Hall) 5/26/97	35
Esther	37
Triumphs	39
Homage to Jay Saunders Redding on His Natal Day: 10 13 04	41
Praisesong for BB	43

Goodbye to All That	45
Public Letter: Visible Ink	47
Dubonnet	52
Archives: The Public Library I	53
Archives: The Public Library II	57
Legend of Jeannie Turner	64
TCAT Serenade	66
Sherley Anne Williams: 1944–1999	68
Chloe: Black Pastoral Luminous	69
Handmade Book on the Theme of the Beloved	71
Pigeon	72
Artist on a Cellphone (Yaddo)	73
Vote (Providence)	74
Marilyn	75
Tattoo	76
Copenhagen	77
Notes on Our Resident Humanist: Mahler B. Ryder, 1937–1992	79
Ostseebad Ahrenshoop	85
Ribs	95
Charlotte and Nathan Exchange: 50th Anniversary	97
Charlotte to Nathan	99
Notes on the Hopi	100
Critical Mass	102
Hemingway's Iceberg	103
Saint Dolores (Phillips Exeter Academy)	104
"Days Remaining"/Bloom's Day, Dublin	105
Freud: Lessons on Boundaries	106
George J. Makari Blues	107
Songbirds (Habitat)	109
"Ponta de Areia" [Brazil]	109
Tagore (Nobel, 1913)	110
On Brodsky's Collected	112
Three Poems: October 17, 2004	113
I. Archival Secrets of Mary Lincoln	114
II. At the Square	115
III. The Secret Lore of Will's Presidency	117
Zen: The Trainride Home to the Welcome Table	118

The Flight Home	120
Tatum	121
Baseball (Orb)	122
Josh Gibson (Master of National Past)	123
Blackjack	125
Look Backwards: Henry Aaron's Hammer	127
A Centenary Ode to EKE: The Duke of Ellington	128
Ray Charles Robinson	Dead at 73 130
Womb of Space (Yaddo)	132
What I Know This Very Day	133
Along Came Betty	134
Repeat Button	136
Digesting Dexter Gordon at 80	137
Goodbye Pork Pie Hat	138
Photo: Letter (Joel Chandler Harris)	139
Ernesto Victor Antonucci	140
'Craft' Talk, <i>Vermont Studio Center</i>	140
Elder	142
On the Theme of Self-Knowledge and Education "In Society" Though Not Defined by Falsehoods	144
Joseph Santos Iletto	145
The Broke and the Unbroken	147
Jacuzzi Serenade	148
On Arrival	150
Christine Frey's Resurrection	151
Open Studio	152
Iowa (1961) Or " <i>How to USE TROUBLE</i> " [Writers Workshop]	153
Shirley of Little Falls [196L, Iowa City, IOWA]: A Profile in " <i>Intaglio</i> "	160
Philip Roth	162
"American Masters: PBS" (Ralph Ellison)	163
Neighbors	164
Leonard Brown, Musician/Teacher	165
Richard Davis's Trampolines	166
Year of the FirePig in Chinese New Year	169
Eulogy Framed as Requiem Mass on the American Frontier	171
Modulations on a Theme . . . for Josephus Long	171

Eva's Song at the End	177
Los Angeles Coliseum Olympic Swimming Pool, 1960	179
Frederick Armstrong Hetzel	180
Zambia	181
Massey's Ministry	185
The Tank and Its Narrators	189
Judge & Jury: A Saga on Dramatics of the Persona Off Stage	191
The Revolutionary Garden	192
Royce Hall	194
Gwendolynian Staccato Dance	195
Muse	196
Spencer Trask's Den (Yaddo)	197
Spoon of <i>WMM III</i> : Lost Reflections	
on My iPod No Longer Shuffling	198
"Newk" While He's Still Alive and Playing	201
Horacescope	203
Miles Davis Shirt: Monterey Jazz Festival	205
"On Green Dolphin Street" [after Miles Ahead]	206
The Life of Jackie McLean	207
Blues for a Colored Singer: Milt Jackson	209
Interstate 80 Freeway Return	210
Last Song [in Memoriam: Michael Micciche III]	211
Libation for Elvin Jones [1927–2004]	213
Dexter Leaps In	214
The Book on Trane	216
A Coltrane Poem: 9 23 98	217
A Coltrane Poem: 9 23 98 (2)	218
Coltrane Notes on the Millenium 9 23 2000	219
Sermon on O'Meally	220
Larry Doby	221
Panhandler (New Haven)	223
Galveston: 9 8 1900	224
Notes on the Long Poem (<i>Tuscaloosa, AL</i>)	225
John Killens at Yaddo	227
Haircut on the Solstice	228
Ten Years of Freedom: South African Film Festival, N.Y.C.	229
Certainties	230

Hooded Cobra Eyes: Beguiled by Pitch of the True Reed 232
Bouillabaisse 234
“Ars Poetica” 235
Bellow Berryman James Arlington Wright 236

III. I Do Believe in People

Poem on Contents of Harper/Johnson Kin 241
Horoscope: 3 12 98 242
Horoscope: 10 3 98 244
Driving Up on Van Aken Blvd. 245
My Mother Said: For My Sister, Katherine 246
Rome, New York 248
My Aunt Ella Mae 249
Ice 252
Snapshot 253
Sacramento 255
Elizaville 256
Subcode 257
Five Gallon Water Bottle (Oster Is the Best): A Story, a Tale 258
Couch 260
Why I Don't Do Surveys 261
“Sleeping under a Wool Blanket Here” 263
Patrice among the Elders 264
Getting My Head Shaved by My **Son** at Odd Hours 265
Glass (Crystal) 267
Bermuda Triangle: for *Patrice Cuchulain Harper* 268
Papa's Day: Notes On Partition: WWH:
 Father's Day Greeting '99 269
Broadside 270
(Omaha) UTAH BEACH, FRANCE, 5 8 92 272
Josh Gibson's Bat 273
Portrait of Son at Rhinebeck Train Station 275
Paris 276
Mama: To Son 277
Katherine Louise Johnson Harper 278
Headset 281

“Juneteenth”	281
Indispensable Meditation on the Family Tree	282
The Latin American Poem	284
Airport	286
Altura	287
Maroons	290
When I Was a Boy	291
Pull-ups at PS 25	293
Hives	295
Iowa	297
My Mother’s Bible I	298
My Mother’s Bible II	301
Pigeons	303
Caretaking Supreme	304
The Patriarch, W. Warren Harper, Circa 1938	306
Cathair on His Blackwatch Jacket	307
Manhattan Beach	308
Homage to Flight #103, Pan-American	309
Commencement Address: For Jonathan Paul Harper (1941–1977)	310
Attributes And Eccentricities of W. Warren Harper	311
Meditation on Catskill Creek	315
Talk Therapy on John Milton	319
Lovesong	320
1965 Watts Riot	321
Domestic Relations (Defendant saith)	323
The Red Dress: 12 24 65	324
Walking Tour (Lake Windermere) Studies in Romantic Poetry	326
Walking Tour (Lake Windermere): Its Aftermath	327
The Squire of Taunton	329
Jaxon’s First Song: 5 21 2000	332
Natal Visit on the Theme of Shoes	333
Apologia to Charlotte Scott on Pantops Mountain	334
Forty: 6 28 06	335
Loyalty	336
Paul Urabe [1938–2003]	338
Yaddo, Mrs. Ames and Black Men	340