

Aseem Kaul

LATE SONATA

Because the blood  
is its own architecture  
and the purpose of music  
is to enclose the silence,  
not fill it.

Because in Beethoven  
the structures of collapse  
are various and other,  
bridges of thrilled sound  
suspended in violent air.

Because we are unprepared  
for the emptying of impulse,  
for the precise cloud  
of this feeling  
with which the pianos touch us.

Because the night is there  
for the stars  
to meditate on  
and the leaves exist  
for the wind to destroy.

Because what shatters here  
is neither despair  
nor vertigo  
but the pure exhilaration  
of being allowed to fall.