## Hokkaido

Hokkaido

1. A Mountain Pass

Behind the trees,

behind a hundred tori:

a thousand rustic shrines.

The answers to my questions

hide there in the dark.

1. Mashu-ko

Today: a late snow

among the pines

that look down the cliffs,

that surround the lake.

In May, how delicate—

these silver blossoms in my hands.

1. In Kitami

It’s clear this morning;

the mountains have edged

closer to the town.

In the shadow of a pale building,

sakura bloom in the parking lot.

1. In Sapporo

Under the shadow of the TV tower,

I sat next to the man who fed the birds.

The tulips arranged in warm patterns:

fragile, pale blue cups.

              --from Hanami (2015) by Daryl Muranaka

## The Minstrel of Belmont

The Minstrel of Belmont

Guitar man cruising

              the neighborhood

slapping mad rhythms

              to the passing cars

going from street to street

              standing on corners

sun shining in the sweat

              on top of his head

the furious, frenetic beats

              the wild and wonderful

howling lyrics

              I don’t understand

sitting on my porch

              the strumming fading

into the ending of the day

* From The Minstrel of Belmont (2015) by Daryl Muranaka