

Michael Keshigian

Commencement

In white slacks with stocking feet
and her outdated sweater,
she practices the piano intensely,
bungling Schubert
with a scowl then a smile,
the lamplight
flickers unnoticed upon her fingers.

The pasture from where her offspring
once thrived has withered,
mature voices and opinions
have fled the confines of the arena
where music,
like a tranquilized tiger,
now trespasses unsteadily.

Her foot presses pedals,
fingernails carelessly flit keys,
and in her womb
a musician is conceived.
The house is no longer empty,
half full with sound,
she nourishes herself.

Michael Keshigian, from New Hampshire, had his twelfth poetry collection, *Into The Light*, released in April, 2017 by Flutter Press. Published in numerous national and international journals including *The Oyez Review*, *Red River Review*, *Sierra Nevada College Review*, *Oklahoma Review*, *Chiron Review*, he is a 6- time Pushcart Prize and 2- time Best Of The Net nominee. His poetry cycle, *Lunar Images*, set for Clarinet, Piano, Narrator, was premiered at Del Mar College in Texas. Subsequent performances occurred in Boston (Berklee College) and Moletto, Italy. *Winter Moon*, a poem set for Soprano and Piano, premiered in Boston. (michaelkeshigian.com).