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## Blackcap

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# Seán Lysaght

poetry



## **Blackcap**

He carries his own stock of shade  
on his head  
to stay dark in the thicket.

To make me listen to the height  
of summer, he will not meet  
my eye, however I strain

to see where his song  
shifts in the leaves,  
as unsteady as a ghost.

His tiny breath is a choir  
thrilling the rank corner  
that grew from my planting hands.

The warbling stops.  
A breeze lifts the hazels.  
I know he's moving in the shadows

of that understorey, restless –  
unless released as a grey  
little thing that flits away

across the garden to glut  
the young ash by the gate  
with soul notes.

**SEÁN LYSAGHT** grew up in Limerick, Ireland. His books of poems are *Scarecrow* (1998), *Erris* (Gallery, 2003) and *The Mouth of a River* (Gallery, 2007). His *Selected Poems* appeared in 2010 and he has published a verse narrative of the life of Edmund Spenser (2011) and a translations after Goethe, *Venetian Epigrams. Carnival Masks* was published in 2014. He writes a blog, Stonechat, at <http://www.stonechat.blogspot.ca/>.

To read more work by Lysaght published in *The Goose* go to <http://www.alecc.ca/uploads/goose/TheGOOSE2012Winter10.pdf>

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