

Masthead Logo

**The Iowa Review**

---

Volume 29  
Issue 1 *Spring*

Article 20

---

1999

# The Fiddler's Trance

Floyd Skloot

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Skloot, Floyd. "The Fiddler's Trance." *The Iowa Review* 29.1 (1999): 86-86. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.5130>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

## *Floyd Skloot*

### THE FIDDLER'S TRANCE

—after Chagall

The air above Vitebsk was filled with Jews  
gassed green. From the synagogues and orchards,  
rubble of butcher shops, from crushed forges,  
charred barns and wooden huts rose the blues  
and blazing yellows of the world to come.  
Red footprints racing nowhere across snow  
were chased by spirals of dark fire that no  
one saw in time. Every bird was struck dumb  
by dawn. Chagall remembered the future  
before ever leaving home. Yet he knew  
song was possible. Whatever was true  
about the sound of night, he would picture  
one lonely fiddler looming and entranced  
to find himself the center of a dance.