



## The Graduate Review

---

Volume 2

Article 8

---

2017

# The City Has a Music All Its Own

Craig DeMelo

*Bridgewater State University*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://vc.bridgew.edu/grad\\_rev](http://vc.bridgew.edu/grad_rev)



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

DeMelo, Craig (2017) The City Has a Music All Its Own. *The Graduate Review*, 2, 27.

Available at: [http://vc.bridgew.edu/grad\\_rev/vol2/iss1/8](http://vc.bridgew.edu/grad_rev/vol2/iss1/8)

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.  
Copyright © 2017 Craig DeMelo

# The City Has a Music All Its Own

CRAIG DEMELO

The players cross each other on the street  
and chant their pablum into hollow phones,  
all soloists with eyes that never meet,  
too busy as they shuffle their own sheets  
of tired songs they're playing through alone.  
With pointless joys and sorrows to a beat,  
the city has a music all its own.

The vast machinery that comes to play  
booms abrasively in metal zones.  
Giant shovels make the earth give way,  
cars and trucks and taxis have their say.  
The howl and honking of their churlish tones  
—savage trumpets—blare and shake the day.  
The city has a music all its own.

Troubled voices blend into the mix  
with darting eyes and secrets made of stone.  
They stagger alleyways and chase their fix.  
Negotiations made by desperate tricks,  
through midnight windows cracked they hush and moan.  
These wicked whispers echo off the bricks,  
the city has a music all its own.

There's dissonance of shrill and painful cries,  
accompanied by empty belly groans.  
Angry sirens shriek their lullabies,

but somewhere in this terminal reprise  
some hopeful vessels made of prayer and bone  
are singing out their dreams to careless skies.  
The city has a music all its own.

## Editor's Note

Another poem entitled "Fault Lines" by Craig DeMelo is also found in this edition of *The Graduate Review*.

---

## About the Author

Craig DeMelo is a Master's Degree student in the Department of English at Bridgewater State University. He teaches English at New Bedford High School. When he's not in a classroom, he is a performing songwriter, an author, a poet, and a husband and father of two.