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## Hammered Dulcimer

Lisa Williams

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## BANQUET

The daffodils are expectant.  
On the fringes of Spring  
they are waiting.  
*Be glad. Spread cheer.*  
*Do not let the fabric*  
*of joy disappear.*  
Benevolence  
must be like this, appearing  
suddenly on the margins  
of our lust for change.  
It is close. Too close.  
We grow used to it  
with its colors and bells,  
its bright, slippered feet.  
*Delight, delight,*  
*the soul is right,*  
say the daffodils. Tonight  
may be their last. The meadows  
confused with praise  
—warm mild days—  
then the crotchety winter  
laying his rough hands  
on the flower beds.  
What is it he wants with them?  
Their hopes are not hidden.  
They open themselves  
completely,  
as if they want to be touched,  
gold empty cups  
for someone to fill.  
They are not so innocent.  
They would feel and feel.  
The liquor they offer  
is consciousness.  
Even if he drains them,

even if he destroys  
their silks and stems,  
he will have to go home  
eventually, he will have to retreat  
from the garden alone.  
Of this, they're aware.