Percussion

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MORE ONLINE

Audio

Listen to Dr. LaVigne read
this poem.

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Lodged in my
white coat pocket,
jostling pens and safety pins.
Knocking my hip
with each heavy step.

The smooth cool steel
rounded bumper, sleek
black handle swings
just so in my hand.

My eyes and hammer
seek the clues
hidden beneath skin.
Small betrayals by a body
that fumbles, drops and falls.

I see fasciculations flutter
across my patient's legs.
Sparks, like fireflies,
peek out at me
from dying muscles,
signs of signals lost.

A gentle rap
one side, then
the other.
The secret, a code
tapped on tendon,
briskly reveals itself.

Hope, like water
sprayed on hot coals.
A diagnosis spoken
in muted tones.

I walk quietly away,
hammer in my pocket.
Its weight tugs
at my tired shoulders.

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