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Blackcap

Seán Lysaght

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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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