

## *On John Coltrane's "My Favorite Things"*

NATHANIEL LEE HANSEN

With steady three-beat brushes and cymbal  
of Elvin Jones, stand-up pulse of Steve Davis,  
McCoy Tyner's chords thick as woolen mittens,  
Trane bends Rodgers and Hammerstein  
into shapes they'd surely never imagined,  
his soprano hopping along melody's wire  
before embarking on flights both articulated  
and unsettling, while below minor triple groove:  
canine teeth, apian pricks, melancholy.

Abrupt turn to sunshine of major,  
saxophone a wild goose elated,  
crying every note it can, high to low.  
Its declaration celebrates possibility,  
testing limits of pitch and tonality, at last  
landing on the stilled lake of melody.