

The Music Box

CLIFF SAUNDERS

Sing the gap between food and electricity
into a spirit unlike any other.

You might not have a choice.
Sing chaos into every message

in a bottle. For once in your life,
sing oceans into a tizzy,

sing weather buoys into hearing aids
in a pinch. Sing pages into the lost years

of civilization and they'll light up!
Sing poplar trees into mourners

of the earth while you still can.
Somewhere in your neighborhood,

sing the roof of the corner store
into the kind of music box that you

can sit inside, that lets your glory
run free. You must remember this:

the street dies there where you live,
where you park your past mistakes.