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Conrad Gurtatowski

Silent Ballet

We are like a silent ballet,
predetermined movement without cadence,
cues missed, leaps untimed,
unbalanced spins, misstep
followed by misstep, and yet
we push our way through the choreography,
our bodies telling the story
the music refuses to play,
our ears incapable of hearing,

nonetheless: we defy gravity
with every leap, a tribute
to our synchronicity with silence.

Conrad Gurtatowski's poems and short stories have appeared in *Blue Collar Review*, *The Stray Branch*, *Avocet*, *Straylight*, and elsewhere. He uses his working-class background as a source of inspiration for his writing and is "currently at work on a novel while he waits for the world to return to normal."