

# Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park

## **Black Boys Play the Classics**

The most popular “act” in  
Penn Station  
is the three black kids in ratty  
sneakers & T-shirts playing  
two violins and a cello – Brahms.  
White men in business suits  
have already dug into their pockets  
as they pass and they toss in  
a dollar or two without stopping.  
Brown men in work-soiled khakis  
stand with their mouths open,  
arms crossed on their bellies  
as if they themselves have always  
wanted to attempt those bars.  
One white boy, three, sits  
cross-legged in front of his  
idols – in ecstasy –  
their slick, dark faces,  
their thin, wiry arms,  
who must begin to look  
like angels!  
Why does this trembling  
pull us?

*A: Beneath the surface we are one.*

*B: Amazing! I did not think that they could speak this tongue.*

**Toi Derricotte**

Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park, a poetry walk, is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library with generous help from the School of Art and Design at Montgomery College; Columbia Union College; and the Takoma Park Department of Public Works. For more information go to [www.FTPML.org](http://www.FTPML.org).

*Kossiwa Kpetioo, designer*