

Hilary Batista

Age: 17, Grade: 12

School Name: Hoover High School, Hoover, AL

Educator: Brad Coltrane

Category: Poetry

Prayers

It doesn't have to be a wondrous melody
One that rivals those of Mozart
Chopin or Tchaikovsky
It can be comprised of a few misshapen keys
Riddled with flats and accidentals here and there

And it doesn't have to be performed in front of thousands
In gold-rimmed concert halls
Filled to the brim with with peering faces
Sometimes, a small audience is enough
Sometimes, just one is enough

Nor does it have to be loud
An intricate lyric
An elaborate composition
A heart-wrenching oeuvre

It can be a gentle whisper
The quiet stillness of peace
Rhythms of grace
Songs of reverence
Uttered to the Father

Knees bent
Arms raised
Prayers.