

The Song of Jerome

by Nonnie Augustine

The Song of Jerome

Jerome, a young cricket,
grown strong over summer, chirps
his loudest and longest to lure Lilah,
his chosen, to him, only him.

His wings, up and open, send his calls
sailing to the shy siren's shrub. She hears them,
comes closer, and he courts her with a new song
in a voice low and private. Jerome's chirping
persuades her to choose him, only him.

Later, in the meadow, all the Gryllidae
cousins hear "My love is with eggs!"
Jerome's song of copulation joins
thousands of others as couples commingle
all through the night, the hot August night.

