

Bel Canto

You started as a prick in my heart
speck in my inner sea

lilt of joy
we hummed together

blood harmony
it's called when parent and child

sing together.
You arrived like a gale

hiccupping in the womb
already keeping time.

I danced you to delivery
my fingers hooked in dad's belt

welcomed the waves
squatted like a savage

when my water broke
they hauled me onto the birthing bed

in my street clothes
told me to reverse breathe

you were coming so fast
but you made your entrance undeterred

drew that first breath and bellowed
your primal aria.

They whisked you off
to vacuum out your lungs.

First you were grey then pale then pink.
Every night I sang you to sleep

crooning songs of my time till
you could sing them with me

legato,
same timbre same key.