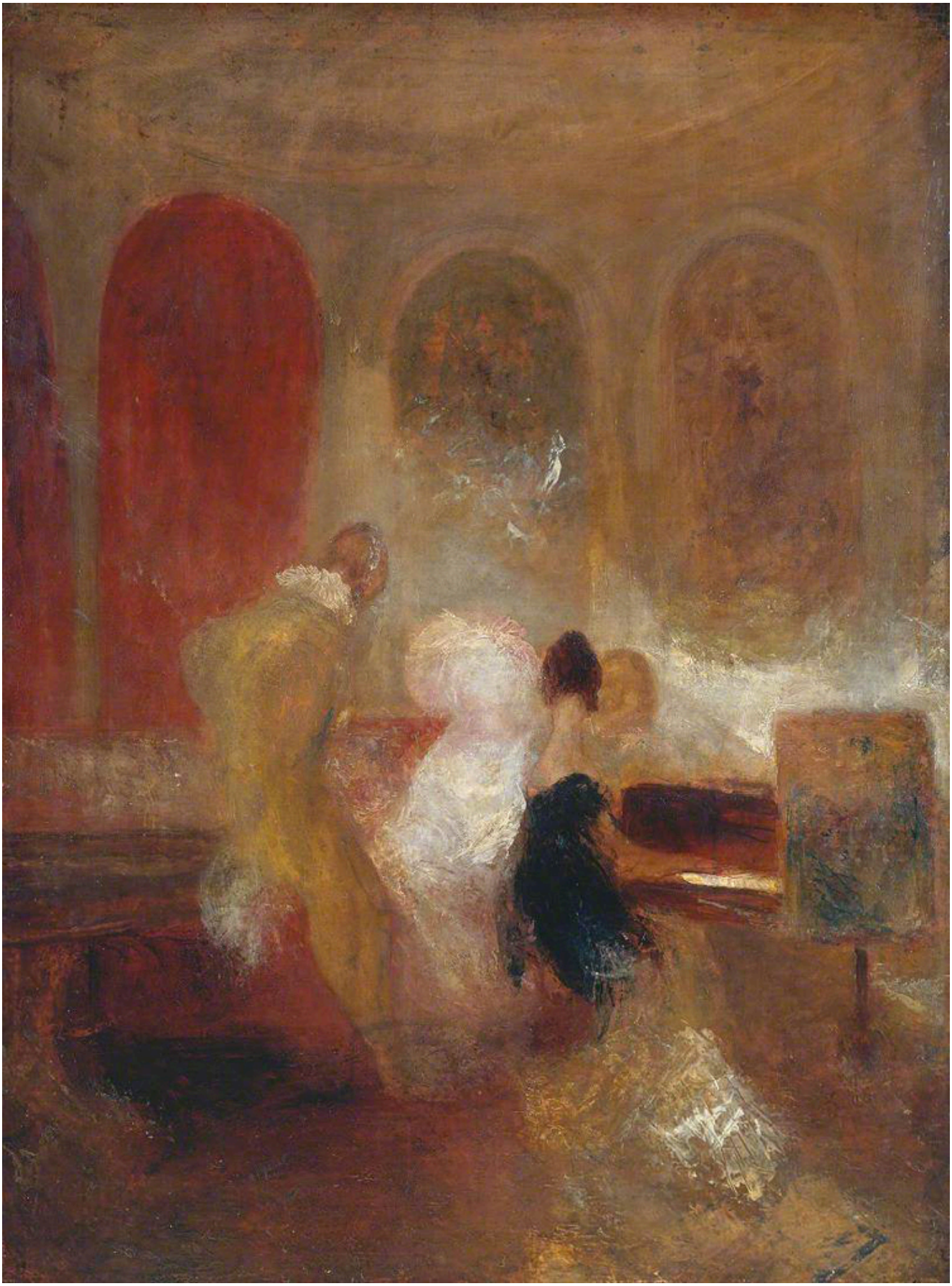
Six Shorts

by Jeffrey Burghauser (June 2022)



Music Party, East Cowes Castle, J. M. W. Turner, 1835

[1] On Idan Raichel
Israeli Musician

Whilst many music makers (I
  Discovered) boldly slay the drear,
    Sheer Fear of Death as with a knife,
Idan Raichel must occupy
  A rather more exclusive tier:
    His music slays the Fear of Life.

[2] On Tim Eriksen
Interpreter of Traditional American Folk Music

Bandages untwist in his
  Voice. “Life,” his notes mean,
  “Shouldn’t be too clean.”
Thankfully, it seldom is.

[3] *Caveat Emptor*

“The National Association of REALTORS® defines stigmatized property as: ‘a property that has been psychologically impacted by an event which occurred, or was suspected to have occurred, on the property, such event being one that has no physical impact of any kind.’ Many circumstances can stigmatize a property—location, murder or suicide in the house, alleged hauntings, or a notorious previous owner.”—From the National Association of REALTORS® Website

Every book of Real Poetry is (in
A sense quite near to this one) stigmatized.

[4] Reciprocity

I teeter on the Edge of a Void;
A Void teeters on the Edge of me.

[5] Connoisseur

Some are connoisseurs of wine,
  Verses, whisky, lightly dressed
Virgins, Modernist design—
  I'm a connoisseur of Rest.

[6] The Circumcellions

The leaders of the Circumcellions assumed the title of 'Captains of the Saints'; their principal weapon, as they were indifferently provided with swords and spears, was a huge and weighty club, which they termed an 'Israelite,' and the well-known sound of 'Praise be to God!' which they used as their cry of war, diffused consternation over the unarmed provinces of Africa."—Edward Gibbon, *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*[*]

One sometimes sees Creation holding still.
  Observe the tattered pictures as they come,
Each one grotesquely individual,
  As if the whole Created World were some
    Mnemonic used by God so that He might
    Remember something else—His *real* delight.

[*] *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. Vol. II. Boston: E. P. Dutton & Company, 1914. p. 317.

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Jeffrey Burghauser is a teacher in Columbus, OH. He was educated at SUNY-Buffalo and the University of Leeds. He currently studies the five-string banjo with a focus on pre-WWII picking styles. A former artist-in-residence at the Arad Arts Project (Israel), his poems have appeared (or are forthcoming) in *Appalachian Journal, Fearsome Critters, Iceview, Lehrhaus*, and *New English Review*. Jeffrey's book-length collections are available on Amazon, and his website is www.jeffreyburghauser.com.

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