



THE POETRY INTERVIEW 3

Poetry Editor Hezekiah with Roger Singer

Our guest poet artfully writes with such clarity and brevity, I feel compelled to show him the same courtesy and to share his feelings about the craft with all our readers. Welcome, Dr. Singer!

HS: *Roger, how did you find Fleas?*

RS: Internet. Newpages.com

HS: *What inspires you to write?*

RS: Music is great influencer. My family had a cottage on the Connecticut shoreline which still provides me with material. We also traveled extensively out west which is another great influence in my writing.

HS: *How would you describe your style?*

RS: Free style

HS: *How does a chiropractor become a Poet Laureate in Connecticut?*

RS: Prior to moving to Connecticut, I practiced in upstate New York. While there a number of publishers began to accept my poems. Many years later and 1,502 published poems I'm still going. Once in Connecticut I began teaching a number of classes. The town where I lived bestowed upon me Poet Laureate.

HS: *What are your fondest memories during your titled tenure?*

Expanding the principal of writing with as few words as possible and discovering one or two students that had great potential, and then moving them into the position of successfully getting their poems published.

HS: *You mention in your website, rogersinger.me, that you were diagnosed with dyslexia. Do you find that it obliges one to look at the world in different ways even enhancing creativity and abstract thought?*

RS: School was very difficult for me in the 1950's and 60's. At the age of 12 I was barely reading at a third-grade level. Teachers pushed me from grade to grade, not wanting to keep me back, therefore, having to put up with me for another year.

I was called "class clown" "dummy" and "stupid". Teachers singled me out as an example to other students not to be like me. Slowly in seventh grade, reading and writing began to open up for me. I attribute this to my praying grandmother who knew of my learning disability and never gave up on me.

The diagnosis of dyslexia came about in the mid 1970's.

I graduated from high school in the bottom 10% of my class and graduated in the top 15% with my doctorate.

HS: *Do you feel good poetry benefits more by age and experience or youth and exuberance?*

RS: As I tell my students, everything around us is poetry. Regardless of age, I advise them to begin by writing what you know before expanding into uncharted horizons.

HS: *Who are some writer you admire that have, perhaps, influenced your work?*

RS: Hemingway, Steinbeck, Capote, Pablo Neruda, Dylan Thomas, Philip Larkin, Jim Morrison, Jack Kerouac, Ted Hughes, William Simiac, Anne Sexton.

HS: *Who might be the greatest writer you most struggle to appreciate?*

RS: Dylan Thomas

HS: *Finally, kindly cite and answer the question you wish you were asked.*

I think you covered it all.

Thank you