

First Place Winner

Hollowed / Hallowed

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an instrument is only an enclosure
around an empty space, no more
mysterious than a fenced corral / choral resonance
timbre / chambered heart
the opposite of a closed fist
the opening in a conversation / invitation
an empty seat, vacated
what parting carved you out, so you might reverberate
like the belly of a cello? eroded you over time
to make you a cave instead of a cliff, walled against the sea?
the loss that vibrates, sings in us
passes throat to throat
echoing in the round