

# Ode to Spring

ADRIAN MATEJKA

In the vacillating spring greens  
of my mother's garden,  
I can't decide if it's a cold

stuffing me up or pollen.  
So I straddle the flower pots  
& thin-necked bluebells ringing

in their own coronations while  
I invest in a self celebration—  
brass-hatted band in my head,

derelict enchantments of valve  
& bell. Hearts are the big leaders  
of this dime-store band.

A surfeit of beating, as if  
the unreliable metronome inside  
discovered this whole shebang.

## About the author

Adrian Matejka is the author of seven books, most recently a mixed media collection inspired by Funkadelic, *Standing on the Verge & Maggot Brain* (Third Man Books, 2021) and a collection of poems, *Somebody Else Sold the World* (Penguin, 2021), which was a finalist for 2022 UNT Rilke Prize and the Indiana Authors' Award. His first graphic novel *Last On His Feet* (Liveright, 2023) was selected as one of the ten best books of 2023 by the New York Public Library. Among Matejka's other honors are fellowships from the Academy of American Poets, the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lannan Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, and a Simon Fellowship from United States Artists. He served as Poet Laureate of the state of Indiana in 2018-19 and is Editor of *Poetry* magazine.