Strong Measures: Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms

Philip Dacey  David Jauss

Strong Measures: Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms, edited by Philip Dacey and David Jauss. Harper & Row, 1986. $18.95 492 pages. Strong Measures: Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms is a collection of poems by some of the finest contemporary American poets, ranging from ballads and sonnets to free verse. The poems in this volume reflect the diversity and richness of contemporary American poetry.

The editors, Philip Dacey and David Jauss, are well-known American poets and critics. Dacey has written thirteen full-length books of poems, and Jauss has written many essays on the craft of writing fiction. Their introduction, "The Revolution is Over. The War Has Been Won," sets the tone for the entire book. They argue that the traditional forms and ideas no longer seem to provide meaning to many poets, and they encourage the revival of traditional forms in the hands of contemporary poets.

The poems in this volume are arranged in traditional forms such as sonnets, villanelles, and sestinas. The editors have also included poems in contemporary forms such as found poetry and digital poems. The result is a book that is both innovative and traditional, a showcase of the finest contemporary examples of nearly seventy-five traditional forms.

The revival of traditional forms will be seen as only one response to this troubling. Strong Measures: Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms offers a new, wide-ranging selection of contemporary poetry that is sure to delight readers with its range of form and content.

In addition to the introduction, the book includes a foreword by Richard Wilbur, an essay by Stanley  Strong Measures: Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms features essays by some of the most respected poets and critics of our time, including Stanley  Strong Measures: Contemporary American Poetry in Traditional Forms is a must-read for anyone interested in contemporary American poetry.