Russia's Poets

The Russian poets lead me
To a city of snow, Orthodox churches,
War and amorous intrigue.

In the City of Angels
The songs of a tragic land
Claim me a citizen.

I walk in the sunshine, but my heart darkens
As dark as lyrics of separation, betrayal and death.

And the turbulences of love are pure nostalgia.

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Ramón García is the author of two books of poetry *The Chronicles* (Red Hen Press, 2015) and *Other Countries* (What Books Press, 2010), and a monograph on the artist Ricardo Valverde (University of Minnesota Press, 2013). His poetry has appeared in a variety of journals and anthologies, including *Springhouse Journal, Best American Poetry 1996*, *Ambit*, *The Floating Borderlands: Twenty-Five Years of US-Hispanic Literature*, *Plume*, *Los Angeles Review*, and *Mandorla: New Writing from the Americas* and *Plume*. He teaches at California State University, Northridge and lives in downtown Los Angeles. https://ramongarciaphd.com/