The Voices of the World

The clicks of the crickets out my door are louder
than the music I am playing but they
syncopate the beat, lovingly laddering sound,
like water surrounding me and I
sing for the wishes of voices of old,
and I patter my hands and I tap
fingertips on my desk; this is magic this
music and the whoosh of a car up
the hill, and the horn sounding blends
with the music, the crickets, my
body in motion my voice wavering and
the whine of electricity overhanging
like high-flying wires through the
cacophony through the chaos through
every sound everywhere trembling together,
the words emerging from the morass,
hidden signals from my silent mind,
I can hear voices in the noises of the world and
I listen, I listen, wondering where they
would lead me if I were to follow them.

Cobalt Poets Series # 588 ~ September 26, 2023

Vayl Larkin

Vayl Larkin is a trans, Autistic, wheelchair-modded writer and performer, living in Pittsburgh. They write poetry, short fiction, theater, and sometimes impassioned essays and are a frequent feature at accessible literary events. Their multimedia work with Deaf actor Crom Saunders has been featured through multiple venues, including as part of their *Poet of the Week* feature, and their fellowship work in 2021 with Brooklyn Poets. Their play, *Words of the Prophets,* premiered in Manhattan this year, and featured a diverse cast with a wide range of abilities. They will be appearing at the AWP Conference in February 2024 as part of the panel, *Finding Your Own Rhythm: Writing Practices for Disabled & Neurodivergent Writers.*