

## “Black Boys Play the Classics”

The most popular “act” in  
Penn. Station  
is the three black kids in ratty  
sneakers & tee shirts playing  
two violins and a cello-Brahms.  
White men in business suits  
have already dug into their pockets  
as they pass and toss in  
a dollar or two without stopping.  
Brown men in work-soiled khakis  
stand with their mouths open,  
arms crossed on their bellies  
as if they themselves have always  
wanted to attempt those bars.  
One white boy, three, sits  
cross-legged in front of his  
idols-in ecstasy—  
their slick dark faces,  
their thick wiry arms,  
who must begin to look  
like angels!  
Why do these strings  
tremble so sweetly  
to our ears?  
A. Beneath the surface we are  
one.  
B. Amazing! I did not think that  
they could speak  
this tongue.