

Every Singer

changes completely
so that the listener
cannot understand
what is being said—

which is necessary
to give the sound
naturalness.

Unfortunately, however,
they require
the use of amplifiers.

ABOUT THE POEM & AUTHOR

“Every Singer” was created from *Letters of a Radio-Engineer to His Son* by John Mills (1922). About the poem and the process of composing it, Susan Kay Anderson writes:

There are so many jewels in John Mills’ *Letters of a Radio-Engineer to His Son*. I read the text with an eye for details I could grasp onto and wrote down words and phrases that were full of personality and humor. What I discovered was a philosophical treatise. I felt that it was painful for Mills to see his son grow up but couldn’t tell him this. He had to accept this fact, and his writing shows a kind of sad resignation with a mix of practicality.

Susan Kay Anderson is the author of *Mezzanine* (Finishing Line Press 2019) and *Please Plant This Book Coast to Coast* (Finishing Line Press 2021). Her work has also appeared in the anthology *Insurrection* (Gnashing Teeth Publishing 2021), *The Ocean State Review*, *Barrow Street*, *Interim*, and elsewhere. She is a poetry submissions reader for *Quarterly West* and *Lily Poetry Review*. She lives in Sutherlin, Oregon, and can be found online at www.pw.org/directory/writers/susan_kay_anderson.

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