

## Bob Moore

### In the ICU

My father's heart rate increased,  
he was in afib with a slight fever  
when he entered the emergency room.

On the phone, the nurse explained,  
"I've been talking to your Dad.  
He told me he was an engineer  
for over forty years,  
and he also plays the piano."

I said, "Yes, he played for a choral group  
in his hometown in PA. He loves  
the Great American Songbook,  
the classics, Gershwin and Beethoven  
are his favorites."

The nurse said, "He was having  
a hard time keeping his oxygen level up.  
So we had him on a full respirator overnight.  
I put on a classical recording before I left.

The next time I walked into the room,  
your father's hands were waving in the air  
as if he was playing the role of the conductor.

I watched him for a few minutes,  
his arms rising and falling.

I asked him if he needed anything.  
He whispered, "Yes, can you turn up the music?"

**Bob Moore** has been writing poetry and songs since the early 1990's. He's released several books of poetry his latest by Beech River Books entitled *Body and Soul*. He's had poems published in *The Lyric*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *The Avocet* and *The Poet's Touchstone*. Moore is the host of the First Friday Coffeehouse held every first Friday of the month at the Exeter UU Church. He is the co-editor of a biannual publication of poetry and artwork, *The Lit FUUSE*. He works as a duo with his partner, multi-instrumentalist, vocalist Cynthia Chatis and as a duo with guitarist, vocalist Stew Aronson in the band "String Theory".