

Charlie Brice

The Prez

On Pandora I listen to
Lester Young's smokey sax
fly and twitter light
as a chickadee but
somehow deep as
a pale pool
of champagne left
by lovers who dance
alone, feet slow over
a living room carpet,
wrapped around each other
in a silence that only
Lester's sax could conjure.

This is what he could do—
play that bent brass
so sweetly,
so intimately,
that you could
mistake it for
the soundless embrace
of eternity.

Charlie Brice is the winner of the 2020 *Field Guide Magazine Poetry Contest* and is the author of *Flashcuts Out of Chaos* (2016), *Mnemosyne's Hand* (2018), *An Accident of Blood* (2019) and *The Broad Grin of Eternity* (forthcoming), all from WordTech Editions. His poetry has been nominated for the Best of Net Anthology and twice for a Pushcart Prize and has appeared in *The Atlanta Review*, *Chiron Review*, *Plainsongs*, *I-70 Review*, *The Sunlight Press*, *Anti-Heroin Chic* and elsewhere.