

1. Afternoon, mid-August

All: Two cicadas singing

2. Air kiln-hot, lead-heavy

All Five cicadas humming

1. Thunderheads northwestward

All twelve cicadas buzzing

2. Up and down the street

All the mighty choir's assembling

1. Shrill cicadas

2. Droning, in the elms

All Three years

1. Spent underground

2. Among the roots

All in darkness

---

1. Now they're breaking ground

2. And climbing up the tree trunks

1. Splitting skins

All and singing

2. Jubilant

3. ci

1. Rejoicing

3. ca

2. Pouring out their

3. das

All fervent praise

3. For heat and light

All their hymn

1. Sung to the sun

All Cicadas

2. Whining

3. cicadas

1. Cicadas

3. whining

2. Whirring

3. cica

1. Pulsing

3. das

ALL: chanting from the treetops

1. Sending forth their

2. Booming

1. Boisterous

All joyful noise!

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