

# Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park

## *Black Boys Play the Classics*

The most popular “act” in Penn Station is the three black kids in ratty sneakers & T-shirts playing two violins and a cello—Brahms. White men in business suits have already dug into their pockets as they pass and they 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 thin, wiry arms, who must begin to look like angels! Why does this trembling pull us?  
A: *Beneath the surface we are one.*  
B: *Amazing! I did not think that they could speak this tongue.*

Toi Derricotte



*Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park, an urban poetry walk, is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library with assistance from the Takoma Park Department of Public Works. Designs of the poetry are by students at the School of Art and Design at Montgomery College. For more information about the Friends, visit [www.FTPML.org](http://www.FTPML.org).*

*Hevin Wright, designer*