

## WINTER SONGS

Day dawns like an ebb tide  
on the horizon's distant shore  
summer's gone and harvest's home  
and all that's left is winter's store

Summer's truth has been denied  
autumn's mystery laid bare  
fire and air no longer feed  
the furnace of the dying year

Winter's world lies underground  
winter's thoughts run deep  
thinking but keeping its thoughts to itself  
in its wintry sleep

Winter doesn't waste its breath  
or give much away  
winter's world is black and white  
nothing more to say

Winter's words are cold but clear  
their meaning rings true  
winter writes on field and sky  
a page torn in two

Winter left a note behind  
a note without words  
just an empty page with the  
signature of birds

The late rose that burns on a winter's day  
ignites the fuse of spring  
mistletoe, cherry and jasmine catch fire  
flames dance, flowers sing

*Neil Rathmell*