

Uncle Danny Returns to America

By Robert Stewart

Audio Review:

An Introduction: Dan Turèll + Halfdan E Meets Thomas E. Kennedy, audio CD of poems by Dan Turèll, read by Thomas E. Kennedy, with original musical composition by Halfdan E, PlantSounds Records, 2013.



You will like this. You will. Described by the publisher as a “sound film”—a mix of jazz, rock and audio clips from *noir* movies—I tell you, this is better than film. It includes 12 poems by the late Dan Turèll, read by writer Thomas E. Kennedy, the translator. The original music, by Halfdan E [Nielsen], a Danish composer who has won two Danish Grammy Awards, moves the album with a spirited pace, above and under the readings, entirely reminiscent of synaptic energy during original, intellectual and literary thought. You will, moreover, understand what I tell you now, that these performances are better than music. Danish poet Turèll, who died in 1993 at the age of 50, has long captured the Danish imagination through his affinity with jazz, Beat writers, the landscape and shops and people of that country. This audio follows the first American publication of Turèll’s poems, in *New Letters* in 2009, published under the headline, “Uncle Danny Comes to America.” Hear it now, and read the poems in the elegant little booklet attached to the CD. You will not forget the opening cut, “A Tribute to Everyday Things,” published in that *New Letters* selection and translated by Kennedy, who reads on this CD in a lively, clear-toned and appropriately rantaceous voice. “Make room for euphoria,” Turèll kindly insists. The poems go forward, sauntering through Copenhagen, joyfully, like the joyful litany of everyday things, like the sound track, itself—tympenic, saxaphonic intonations of happiness—like art, like poetry, as when, in “Last Walk Through the City,” the poet leans upon a “poster-plastered pillar,” and you lean there, also, also a poet. You will like this.