



Regina Carter
Photo by John Berard

Elemental
for Regina Carter

Sheila Smith McKoy

There are times for praying
when the pull, the pluck,
the strum of her strings
frees the soul for dreaming

For hope, even at death's door--
for songs of other suns rising
on planets not like this &
ghosts of lovers needing more

I hear her calling the spirits in,
bow held there – *con brio*
reimagining this here, this now
this knowing how to begin again

These are times for amulets --
while the alchemy in her strings
summons myriad forevers anew,
some ringed in radiating light