

ANSELM HOLLO TRIBUTE BAND

Hey, howcome they never have tribute bands for poets?
Like, a three piece combo traveling around
to fourth-rate dives and unremarkable civic
events reading the works of beloved dead wordsmiths?
Maybe playing an occasional bar-mitzvah
or a confirmation, or a high school dance?
I'm telling you right now that I'm starting
an ANSELM HOLLO TRIBUTE BAND
with a copy of Braided River: New and Selected Poems
(2005, Salt Publishing) and a porkpie hat.
I'm gonna hit the road
I'm gonna shave down my beard into a beautiful white
Van-Dyke
and listen for news from Alpha Centauri
and wear all black
and get out there, man.
I'll play at your cousin's wedding, for a free dinner and some gas money.

There's something to be said
for a poet-tribute band
for one thing, you don't have to memorize anything
or waste a lot of time rehearsing
because Anselm Hollo
probably read his stuff out of a book,
like most poets do.

This is why there are no Homeric tribute bands
because we all know that Homer had that shit **down**, man,
and who could remember all of the Illiad
and all of the Odyssey, especially in Ancient Greek,
'cause, if you were really going for it there
being authentic, I mean
and not going to be some "in the style of" kind of cop-out Homeric Tribute Band

you'd have to have all those dactylic hexameters right up in your head.
Plus the whole Greek-toga thing might get a bit cold at times
and people would have to book the wedding hall for, what, like a week?
and if you played at a bar, you'd have some serious problems with closing times.

But wait! This is an ANSELM HOLLO TRIBUTE BAND!

And has nothing to do with Homer!

Because Anselm Hollo kicks ass!

Wikipedia says that Paul McCartney bought *& it is a song* at the Indicia Bookshop in 1965.

Maybe Paul would like to join my ANSELM HOLLO TRIBUTE BAND

and we could play for the Queen or something.

Hey, Paul, I mean, Sir Paul: call, me, man.

(Big Fan)

So, now I'd like to read

Something in Finnish, but I'm not going to try

because I would probably do such a bad job that I would

offend every Finn everywhere and that would be no good.

Thankfully, Anselm Hollo translated a lot of stuff for us,

From Finnish and other languages:

German

French

Swedish

Russian

and even English into Finnish!

Look at some of the people he translated:

Pentti Saarikoski

Paavo Haavikko

Brecht

Paul Klee

Genet

Blok

Louis Malle

and Allen Ginsberg (into Finnish)

Thank you, Anselm Hollo.

Wow. Right now I feel really stupid
in relation to Anselm Hollo
because I couldn't translate anything into any other language.
But I'm pretty good with English,
so here's some Anselm Hollo:

this one is from the book, *Finite Continued* and Tom Raworth quoted it at the end of his
obit of Anselm (Hey Tom! I don't know you, but you should join the band--
Seriously, you'd give it some real credibility.)

Oh yeah, here's the poem:

teen angel

**streets
he walked
thinking to meet or
merely to see her**

**once a day or once
every other
third or
fourth**

a madness

buildings pavements

lines drawn so fine

sweet madness of centuries

**there she was and no one else
only i & she**

**a strange
an isolate
sensitivity**

**eternity
was
my address
then -**

I stole this from amazon dot com, where they posted it as a free teaser/excerpt and I've ordered a copy of it, but not from them, because they're giant capitalist assholes- I prefer my capitalists to be smaller, less assholeish, maybe some guy like me who wants to be a writer, but has to do something to pay the rent, like sell Anselm Hollo books on the internet.

Hey—Internet book person—you could totally join the band.

So, here's my ANSELM HOLLO TRIBUTE BAND.

And here's my want ad that I'm going to post tomorrow

Drummer (no jr. Ginger Bakers, must encompass R&B and jazz), pianist (Classical to Jerry Lee Lewis), trumpet (must play r&b, Latin and jazz), violinist. All must sing/read poetry. Male or female. Immed auditions for ANSELM HOLLO TRIBUTE BAND (Columbia Records). APPEL 759-1610 10AM-6PM

Yeah, I stole that from Bruce Springsteen, the one he put in the Village Voice in '74 to get the E Street Band going.

It worked for him, so maybe it'll work for me, too—

If you're reading this yourself, here's a picture of Bruce's:

▶ Drummer (no jr. Ginger Bakers, must encompass R&B and jazz), pianist (classical to Jerry Lee Lewis), trumpet (must play r&b, Latin & jazz), violinist. All must sing. Male or female. Immed auditions for Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band (Columbia Records). Appel.759-1610 10AM-6PM

If you're Bruce Springsteen, well,

Hey Bruce! You're the boss! Wanna join my ANSELM HOLLO TRIBUTE BAND?

Maybe you and me and Paul McCartney can play at the White House or something*.

Anyway, ANSELM HOLLO TRIBUTE BAND!

Awesome.

Yeah.

J. Rigney

*Note: This poem was composed during the Obama Administration.