

JAZZ IS

by Oscar Treadwell

Jazz is what everything else,

ain't.

Jazz is honest and plain,

no paint.

Jazz is pretty and soft and sweet
and loud and raucous

and indiscreet

Jazz is a simple smile to greet

a friend

or a complex shake of hand

to send

a shiver of brotherhood

and meld a core togetherness.

Jazz is affable, laughable, unitarian,

absolutely non-sectarian.

Jazz is a gift to a willing ear

of love that chills and stifles fear,

embraces, enhances and takes the chances

to create a communal tier

of understanding the humane worth

of peace of soul

and peace on earth.