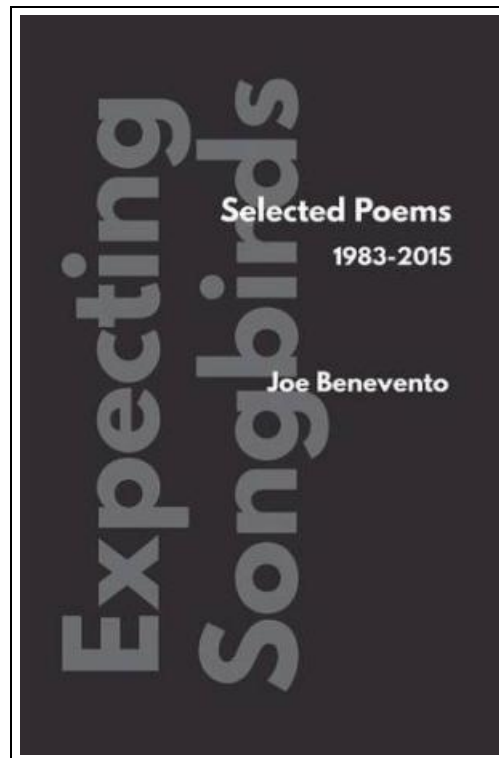


Expecting Songbirds



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Reviews

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EXPECTING SONGBIRDS



Purple Flag, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 208 x 135 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Joe Benevento's *Expecting Songbirds, Selected Poems, 1983-2015*, provides readers with the opportunity to sample the very best of the writer's work from his four previous books in poetry: *Holding On*, *Willing To Believe*, *My Puerto Rican Past* and *Tough Guys Don't Write*, along with some of his most recent journal-published poems collected under the heading *Ode to Pears*. Oftentimes narrative, and predominantly free verse, Benevento's poems mirror his Italian-American, working class roots in a predominantly black and Latino neighborhood in Queens, but they also look back on his past three decades as professor, editor and writer in the small-town, overwhelmingly white Midwest and the tensions and ironies of having lived the life of an outsider in both settings. Poems delivered with the plain spoken ease and realism of Frost (Walter Borgen) and which, at their best bring to mind the exceptional work of Philip Levine and B.H. Fairchild, (Larry D. Thomas), *Expecting Songbirds* is an affirmation of Whitman's goal to seek the miraculous in the commonplace. Whether dealing with never quite lost loves, multi-layered lessons gleaned from nature, or a bittersweet but genuine belief in family, *Expecting Songbirds* stands as testament to over three decades of serious commitment to accessible poetry by a writer who has not underestimated the redeeming value in never taking oneself too seriously.



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