

Sing, as in Madrid the rifle-shots
were drowned by voices singing, hearts made warm
from acts of self-defence, the barricades
thrown up with kitchen pots
and mattresses, confessionals and cots
against the onslaught of machine-gun storm.
Sing, sing out ! as lines collapse, re-form
as bombs hiss past, explosion blots
the screaming child-- all Europe falling now.
Sing, till the crumbling ruin of our world
becomes a stamping-ground for brotherhood:
Sing till the barricades of life are hurled
against oppression--sing till banners blaze
in one imperishable cry unfurled!