

Playing With Three Strings

*W*e have seen Yitzhak Perlman
Who walks the stage with braces on both legs
On two crutches.

He takes his seat, unhinges the clasps on his legs
Tucking one leg back, extending the other
Laying down his crutches, placing the violin under his chin.

On one occasion one of his violin strings broke
The audience grew silent but the violinist did not leave the stage
He signaled the maestro, and the orchestra began its part
The violinist played with power and intensity on only three strings.

With three strings he modulated, changed and
Recomposed the piece in his head
He retuned the strings to get different sounds
Turning them upward and downward.

The audience screamed delight
Applauded their appreciation
Asked later how he had accomplished this feat,
The violinist answered
It is my task to make music with what remains.

A legacy mightier than a concert
Make music with what remains
Complete the song left for us to sing
Transcend the loss
Play it out with heart, soul and might
With all remaining strength within us.

