Featured on New York radio station WRTN-FM on the *Poetry Today* show, aired on

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**Nature’s Fatal Overture**

The dangling branch weighs down heavy, lifeless,

burdened by dripping blankets of white, wintry slush.

A January storm always packs a wallop, but this

furious, unnumbered movement was being composed

during the first few bars of November.

For music has no era.

Though unusually surprising, unmercifully relentless…

A few brown, brittle leaves cling to life,

soon to snap- and fall; returning feebly

to fertilize Earth’s quiet, niveous terrain.

Etched into memory of the weakening branch, a young

sapling, happier times… When newborn leaves,

rubberlike, vibrant, sang through the branch in

octaval unison; waving hello! to the world,

orchestrating a joyful overture in C major…

Succumbing to many years of weathering countless

beatings, the once mighty, now aged limb

snapped- and fell. Amidst a free fall, the

lifeless branch heard the final chord

ring out – in F minor.