

**'Song for a Former Slave'**  
**Jenny Mitchell**

Her dress is made of music  
humming through the hem,  
high notes in the seams.

A rousing hymn  
adorns the bodice  
with sheer lace.

The heart is stitched with loud amens,  
the back a curving shape  
of hallelujahs.

She's proud enough to hold  
her own applause  
tucked in a pleated waist.

The skirt sways freely  
when she walks  
to show there are no chains.

Her dress is made of music.