

## A CHILD'S MANIFESTO

when i was a boy  
i was given a toy  
and was told to Go and Play

...but as I grew older  
the 'grown-ups' got bolder  
and said, "Put that toy away!"

"We've got things to do, and places to be!  
There an *it* that we **thing** that we **have to** at three!  
Now **stop playing around**, you're annoying me!"

I know  
it's hard  
to even read...

...it's sad to think  
this could come to be...

...but really  
I'm glad  
'cause that's why I am me.

For so I learned  
year after year  
that my wonderful Play  
I must keep near  
almost a secret  
kept safe in my Heart  
so I never  
(ever)  
lose the Art...

...and though one time  
it almost went away...

...I held to it tight  
with all of my might...

And, though it flickered,  
almost out of sight  
I still held it close  
to be  
one day  
bright

...

and now  
I can say  
to this very day  
I have managed to keep  
the Humdrum at bay!

So now I'll tell you Something  
about what it means to be Me  
what it means to be You  
and how it feels to be Free:

### **Sharing play**

I happily share it  
when I find a Friend  
who I know will keep it  
for others, to lend.

And while we are Playing  
the 'other', we see  
is in fact just a Friend  
that Play has set free.

What a wonderful moment!  
At one with the Trees,  
aware in these moments  
that clearly, we see.

And so, I declare,  
to all those who read  
this child's manifesto  
written for thee:

(ahem)

MAY PLAY BE FOUND EVERYWHERE  
Toujours Gratuit!  
And let us strive for the day  
when all of us Play  
and simply  
learn  
to be