

Michael Harper A Reading of Poetry

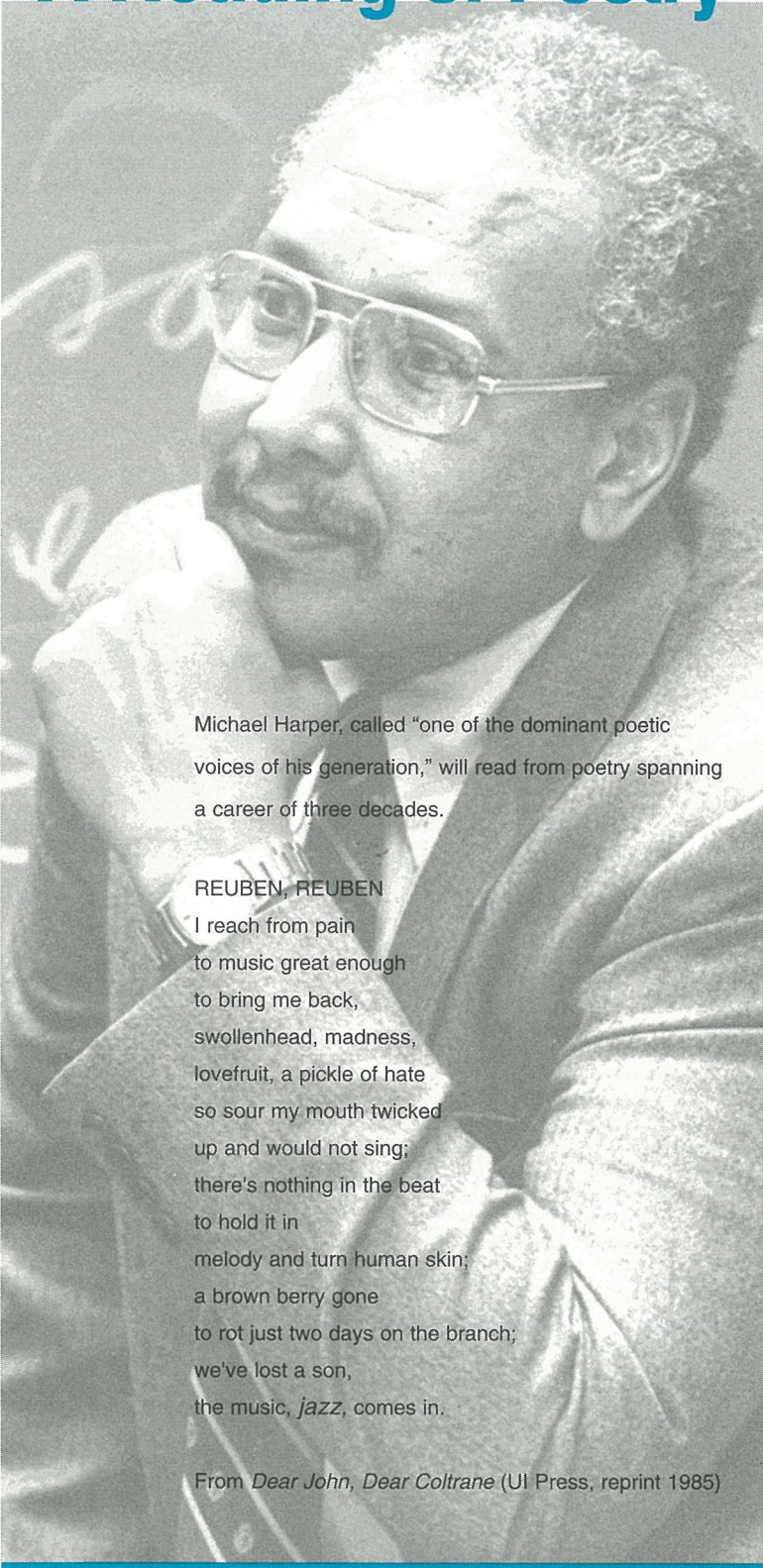
Michael Harper

First Poet Laureate of Rhode Island, fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Department of English, Brown University

February 27, 1997

Thursday 7:30 pm

Third Floor, Levis Faculty Center
619 West Illinois Street, Urbana
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



Michael Harper, called "one of the dominant poetic voices of his generation," will read from poetry spanning a career of three decades.

REUBEN, REUBEN

I reach from pain
to music great enough
to bring me back,
swollenhead, madness,
lovefruit, a pickle of hate
so sour my mouth twicked
up and would not sing;
there's nothing in the beat
to hold it in
melody and turn human skin;
a brown berry gone
to rot just two days on the branch;
we've lost a son,
the music, *jazz*, comes in.

From *Dear John, Dear Coltrane* (UI Press, reprint 1985)

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