

## Lessons

From my father I learned  
the subtle beauty of a musical phrase  
infinite worlds that exist  
in the touch of a finger on a piano key –  
and that cancer should be denied  
not talked about  
pain hidden until it is too late

From my uncle I learned  
pursue your art and yourself  
through all adversity and ridicule  
Be anything and do not fear criticism –  
and that cancer should be faced,  
dealt with honestly  
taking care of important business  
before it is too late

From my cat I learned  
never pass up an opportunity  
to show affection to those you love –  
and that cancer is no reason  
to stop purring