

Memphis at 30

In 1989

the city beckoned with a lusty bellow

And from the cotton and rice fields

the mountains

and from the alluvial plains of Arkansas

we answered

with abandoned texts

to nourish on the neon blues of Beale Street.

How sweetly ironic is homecoming

as Memphis calls now

her voice hoarse across a wreckage of years

but no less powerful

for ears that now hear

her full range and timbre