

Name Yourself

I thought I hated it when someone used my name to ask something of me
whether it was something simple like pass the salt
or something more complex like vote no on parts 3b

for a second I'd stop listening when they said my name
and I had to return myself to where and when I was
I thought it was some manipulative game

trying to get my support with some personal touch
illuminated the falseness of the approach
these false friendships, conaraderie – bit much

but now I realise I was upset with the wrong part
they had my wrong name in their mouths
those incorrect referents were causing the stop-start

Now people call me Harvey because I've asked
I hear how it sounds in different voices and accents
I hear it in requests, questions, it goes by so fast

the people I care for most use my name
and the world just doesn't stop
The person right here listening is self-same

but this time I'm really listening
and I hear Harvey unfurled from friends' lips
from mother tongues, and my place in the world is repositioning

yeah of course I'll pass the salt, I'll make you a tea,
I'll vote for the motion, I'll be over later today, I'll be right here
Thanks Harvey, Cheers Harvey, Ta Harvey, Thanks