

**For Jack Layton**

*August 27, 2011*

Farewell too soon  
your hope and optimism  
still reverberating  
all the chalk marked walls  
attest to that  
and bicycles lined up by hundreds,  
bells ringing,  
drums tapping out the march  
down the wide avenue  
stilt walkers wearing high hats  
everyone in orange.

Oh you were celebrated,  
Jack, our smiling friend  
the fun only a particle  
of all you did for us  
the long hours, the demonstrations,  
how you shook up the stiff necks  
how you noticed the invisible  
who live all over the city.

Today in the ironic sunshine  
the people you noticed have come out  
singing *Halleluja*  
wiping away tears  
Love, Hope, and Optimism  
words we want to live by  
we can try  
but no one else is like you, Jack  
one in a million.

Rest in peace.

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