

MEREDITH NNOKA

## Race Music

Our business is making music  
white enough to cover  
even the deepest blues.  
We steal to earn our keep.

We pull up troublesome roots  
& reconstitute meaning  
from a song's skeletal frame.  
This is how music becomes echo:

What we don't gut, we bury.  
What we don't bury, we bleach  
then iron, shred then darn, until  
the song no longer knows itself.