Big World

Ahead, the red
Lights glow-
All cars are halted now,
The bridge already up,
Awaiting its ship
To pass underneath.

I unbundle,
Hop out of the car,
And head towards the action.

As I approach the edge of the boardwalk,
I spot a bright light
Coming towards the lit-up bridge.

It’s the ship’s pilothouse light,
Awake and ablaze,
Always on,
No matter what.

I stare at the oncoming
Ship light, realizing that
The bridge, all the way up,
Is prepared for a huge ship.

Then, the massive bow
Of the ship appears,
Coming into view,
The hum of the massive propeller
Fills the silence.
The bulk of the ship comes into view,
As I begin to realize how large
Our world really is.

Now, as the pilothouse of the ship
Passes underneath the bridge,
I head back to the car.
The bell of the bridge then
Takes its turn to fill the silence,
The bridge weight shifting,
Falling back into place.
A once-in-a-lifetime
Experience that is just
Another day in Duluth, MN.

-Michael Chelseth