

## Masks

Van der Graaf Generator

He's a man of the past and one of the present,  
a man who hides behind a mask behind a mask;  
a clown, a fool, believing it cool to be down  
or that the game is all about who laughs the last.

So he tells all his problems to his friends  
and relations, exposes his neuroses to their view.  
They accept as fact  
every masochistic mumble of his act;  
how could they know what was false  
and what was true?

Sometimes when he wakes  
he feels he's walked into a dream  
but all it takes  
to remind him things are what they seem  
is the belief  
that the man behind the mask can really dance  
Pirouetting smile  
he sees himself cavorting,  
Pierrot for a while  
before aborting  
to find relief  
in the shelter of the dark, most telling mask.

After all the pantomimes are ended  
he peels all the make-up off his face  
to reveal, beneath,  
the tears running all down his cheeks:  
alone, he opens to the world...  
but it's much too late.  
He's been left, in the end, without a face.