

## MICHAEL RUBY: *AMERICAN SONGBOOK*

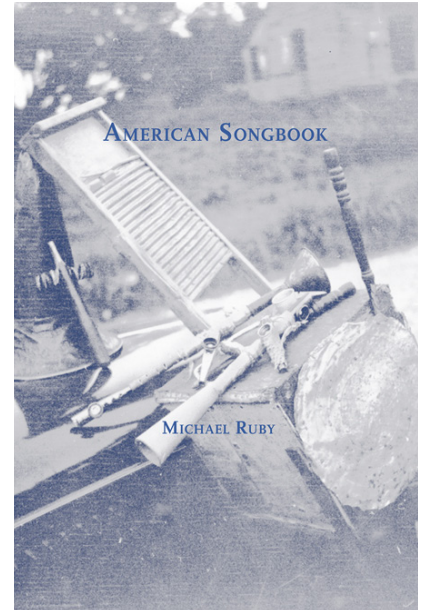
### ABOUT THE BOOK:

*American Songbook* is a poetic response to the grand sweep of recorded vocal music in the 20th century. The poems are based on 75 recordings, with singers ranging from Bessie Smith to Tupac Shakur, and songs from a little-known Lomax prison recording to the last No.1 pop hit in the century. Many musical traditions inform the poems, including blues, jazz, gospel, country, folk, bluegrass, electric blues, R&B, rock, disco and hip hop.

### PRAISE FOR MICHAEL RUBY:

You can sing along to Michael Ruby's delirious new poems in *American Songbook*, your voice echoing down (to mis-quote Fred Neil) "the canyons of your mind," until you can't sing any more and the poem goes off on its own. This book is like a blueprint for storming the castle—all the little guys in the tower shooting arrows as we cross the moat. Ruby's re-orchestrated and unfiltered versions of some of the greatest hits translates into a new way of reading—sure to drive you crazy in the best way. —**Lewis Warsh**

If "experiment" means anything when we speak of experimental poetry, Michael Ruby's gathering is a moving testament to the still real possibilities of such a venture/adventure. That Ruby's workings with memory, dream, and the experience of language between sleep and waking issue in a new and powerful work of poesis is something to be celebrated and experienced by all of us in turn. —**Jerome Rothenberg**



Poetry | \$17  
Perfect-bound  
144 pp, 6 x 9 in  
ISBN 978-1-937027-00-1  
Small Press Distribution  
Release Date: October 1, 2013



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

**Michael Ruby** is the author of four full-length poetry books: *At an Intersection* (Alef, 2002), *Window on the City* (BlazeVOX, 2006), *The Edge of the Underworld* (BlazeVOX, 2010) and *Compulsive Words* (BlazeVOX, 2010). His trilogy, *Memories, Dreams and Inner Voices* (Station Hill Press, 2012), includes *Fleeting Memories*, a UDP web-book. He is also the author of two chapbooks, *The Star-Spangled Banner* (Dusie, 2011) and *Close Your Eyes* (Dusie, 2013). A graduate of Harvard College and Brown University's writing program, he lives in Brooklyn and works as an editor of U.S. news and political articles at *The Wall Street Journal*.

---

UGLY DUCKLING PRESSE

is a nonprofit collective publishing new poetry, translations, lost works and artist books.

For more about UDP, visit [www.uglyducklingpresse.org](http://www.uglyducklingpresse.org)  
Media contact: Ryan Haley • [ryan@uglyducklingpresse.org](mailto:ryan@uglyducklingpresse.org)