



## NEWS FROM WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

**\*For immediate release\***

### ***New Collection from Detroit-born Poet Michael Heffernan*** *Part of Wayne State University Press's Made in Michigan Writers Series*



#### **BOOK INFORMATION:**

**March 2011**

6 x 9, 80 pages

ISBN 978-0-8143-3510-9

\$15.95 paper

*Made in Michigan Writers Series*

Award-winning poet Michael Heffernan was born in Detroit, studied at the University of Detroit-Mercy, and held his first teaching job at Oakland University. Since 1986 he has taught the study and practice of poetry at the University of Arkansas and has received numerous honors for his work, including three NEA fellowships and two Pushcart Prizes. *At the Bureau of Divine Music*, Heffernan's eighth book, is new from Wayne State University Press in March 2011. It collects a range of Heffernan's work from the last several years, presented together for the first time.

*At the Bureau of Divine Music* contains a mix of long monologues that set out dramatic narratives and shorter pieces that glimpse only a limited scene. His complex speakers are at turns funny and angry, loving and bitter. Their insightful descriptions are filled with sensory details—the tastes, sounds, smells, and sights of memories, dreams, and the trials of the moment—and they inhabit dreamy but familiar settings like “whole neighborhoods of happy people,” the suburban backyard, or the drive-in movie theater on the edge of town. While some of the poems are inspired by domestic disturbances, betrayals, and losses, others visit redemptions, sweet long-ago journeys, and ecstasies.

No matter what their subject matter, the poems are united by their contemplative tone, intelligent details, and elegant style. Written mostly in iambic pentameter, and some in formal sonnets, Heffernan's poems effortlessly blend the surreal and the actual, the exciting and the mundane, and make for a unique and satisfying reading experience.

**About the Author:** Michael Heffernan's many books include *Love's Answer* (Iowa Poetry Prize, 1993) and *The Night Breeze Off the Ocean* (2010). Heffernan's poetry has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Boulevard*, *Crazyhorse*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Iowa Review*, *Poetry*, *Southern Review*, *Shenandoah*, *The Kenyon Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Hotel Amerika* and other journals. He has received three NEA fellowships, two Pushcart Prizes, and the Porter Prize for an Arkansas writer.

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### MADE IN MICHIGAN WRITERS SERIES

The **Made in Michigan Writers Series** is devoted to highlighting the works of distinguished statewide writers to showcase Michigan's diverse voices. Featuring the 2009 National Book Award Finalist *American Salvage*, by Bonnie Jo Campbell!