



Otis Redding  
“That’s How Strong  
my Love Is”  
*The Great Otis Redding  
Sings Soul Ballads*  
03/1965  
Volt / Atco

# The First Five Notes of Otis Redding’s “That’s How Strong my Love Is”

Andrew Hachey

sound out  
of tune under  
the needle that floats  
up & down with sun  
warped hills in black  
vinyl

because sun heat forces  
impurities to the surface  
that’s how strong it catches  
the dust & willow

I want to hold our history  
so much that I tattoo it under  
three layers of flesh

scrub it each morning  
with pink salt whose crystals  
I know every edge

for you that’s how strong  
these notes sound out  
of tune while you drag me  
like a cigarette through the loss  
particulate filters rolled into a ball

stuffed into my chest  
pocket because toxins  
are made to be carried