

Allemande Right and Sting Your Partner

*Broad is the way and straight the street
That leadeth to McGill!
Stand in the heart of Montreal
and look toward the hill
With majesty the esplanade
sweeps past those glassy cliffs
To show that city fathers sweep
past any buts and ifs.*

*With crane and giant yellow claws
and mud to bog the mind
They've laboured so that town and gown
at last may be aligned;
They've carved that stony canyon out
through swaths of real estate
So that in splendor Montreal
may come to Roddick Gate.*

*Approach then, would-be proselyte,
your academic home.
(Ignore that mob of troglodytes
in vomit-coloured foam)
Approach the grove – but do beware!
Step sideways as you enter
For no one's moved the Roddick Gates;
McGill's still right of centre.*

John Harley, Poetaster (1987)