

Oregon Arts Commission Presents Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest

Saturday, March 13, 2021

4:00 pm via Facebook live stream

Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, in cooperation with state arts agencies, Poetry Out Loud encourages high school students to memorize and perform great poems.

Event Details

Participating students pre-recorded their poem submissions via zoom last week. After an orientation meeting, judges reviewed round 1 and round 2 poems from each student and scored them independently according to the POL rubric. An accuracy judge reviewed the videos and submitted their scores separately.

During the live event, selected students with the highest total scores from the first two poems will have their third poem broadcast. The same panel of judges will score that poem as it is broadcast. The student with the highest total score will be the state winner; the student with the second highest score will be the state runner-up. Those results will be announced live at the end of the event. All students will receive feedback on their poems from a separate panel of non-scoring respondents.

Contestants

Poems marked with an asterisk (*) were chosen by each student to be highlighted during the live event. Poems marked with a caret (^) are not able to be streamed due to copyright permissions. Copyright permissions do not affect scoring, as judges are able to review all poems independently. The text of all poems is available at www.poetryoutloud.org

Tara Subramaniam

Lincoln High School, Portland

Coordinating Teacher: Alison Gaines

1. *If We Must Die* by Claude McKay*
2. *Thoughtless Cruelty* by Charles Lamb
3. *I Find no Peace* by Sir Thomas Wyatt

Gabriella Shirtcliff

Summit High School, Bend

Coordinating Teacher: Frank Brown

1. *A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning* by John Donne*
2. *All This And More* by Mary Karr
3. *Idea 20: An evil spirit, your beauty, haunts me still* by Michael Drayton

Jinwon Yeo

Crater School of Business, Innovation & Science, Central Point

Coordinating Teacher: Kristen Sullivan

1. *Peligro* by Stuart Dybek
2. *To Cupid* by Joanna Baillie*
3. *"Be Music, Night"* by Kenneth Patchen

Sabina Lindner

St. Mary's Academy, Portland

Coordinating Teacher: Alison Gaines

1. *To My Dear and Loving Husband* by Anne Bradstreet*
2. *Once the World Was Perfect* by Joy Harjo^
3. *At the Vietnam Memorial* by George Bilgere

Trayshun Holmes-Gournaris

Oregon School for the Deaf, Salem

Coordinating Teacher: Gayle Robertson

1. *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* by Langston Hughes*
2. *A Hymn to the Evening* by Phillis Wheatley
3. *The Song of the Smoke* by W.E.B. Du Bois^

Jourdan Dimoff

Grant High School, Portland

Coordinating Teacher: Paige Battle

1. *The Wish, By a Young Lady* by Laetitia Pilkington
2. *Sea Church* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil*
3. *Little Girl* by Tami Haaland

Elsa Billingsley

Cascade Christian High School, Medford

Coordinating Teacher: Casey Mayben

1. *Goldfish* by Koon Woon
2. *Dirge Without Music* by Edna St. Vincent Millay*
3. *Invictus* by William Ernest Henley

Tabarjah Neal

Oregon Charter Academy, Klamath Falls

Coordinating Teacher: Stephanie Imig

1. *Y2K* by Therese Lloyd*
2. *Carnival* by Rebecca Lindenberg
3. *Bereavement* by William Lisle Bowles

Austin Osborne

Redmond High School, Redmond

Coordinating Teacher: Rachel Sarrett

1. *Acquainted with the Night* by Robert Frost^
2. *When You Are Old* by William Butler Yeats*
3. *1969* by Alex Dimitrov^

Emma Fang

West Linn High School, West Linn

Coordinating Teacher: Anna Crandall/Ryan Marsh

1. *Season of Phantasmal Peace* by Derek Walcott*
2. *Flaxman* by Margaret Fuller
3. *Weighing In* by Rhina P. Espaillat

Hannah Oberman

Oakland High School, Oakland

Coordinating Teacher: Hilary Pohl

1. *Blade, Unplugged* by Tim Seibles*
2. *Hanging Fire* by Andre Lorde^
3. *I Find no Peace* by Sir Thomas Wyatt

Arman Manternach

Catlin Gabel School, Lake Oswego

Coordinating Teacher: Liz Harlan-Ferlo

1. *The Mystery of the Hunt* by Michael McClure
2. *The American Soldier* by Philip Freneau*
3. Ode by Arthur O'Shaughnessy

Special Guest Presenter: Anis Mojgani, Oregon Poet Laureate

Anis Mojgani was born in New Orleans to Black and Iranian parents and first called Oregon home in 2004. The author of five books of poetry, he has also done commissioned work for the Getty Museum and the Peabody Essex Museum, and April 2021 will see the premiere of his first opera libretto, "Sanctuaries." Mojgani has performed at universities, festivals and venues around the globe for audiences as varied as the House of Blues and the United Nations. His work has appeared on HBO, National Public Radio, as part of the Academy of American Poets Poem-A-Day series and in the pages of such journals as Rattle, Platypus, Winter Tangerine, Forklift Ohio and Bat City Review.

First coming to poetry by way of visual arts, Mojgani earned a BFA in Sequential Art from the Savannah College of Art & Design in Georgia, and has been awarded artist and writer residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, AIR Serenbe, The Bloedel Nature Reserve, The Sou'wester and the Oregon Literary Arts Writers-In-The-Schools. He

now serves on the Board of Directors of Literary Arts. Mojgani currently resides in Portland.

Judges

André Middleton is the Executive Director of Friends of Noise, a nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth development. André is a board member of the Portland Institute for Contemporary Art. He also produces the [XRAY.FM](#) Friends of Noise Presents radio show with an assortment of teen DJ's. Andre is active advocate for Black Lives Matter and for marginalized and under served youth.

Jason Graham aka Killly Holiday is an Artist and member of MOsley WOtta and Wake Records in Central Oregon. He is an advocate for the gutsy and shaking individuals who risks the world, to share their work.

Subashini Ganesan is an artist, arts administrator, and the Creative Laureate of Portland. Ganesan choreographs and performs potent and universally relevant expressions drawn from her foundation in Bharatanatyam. In 2010, Ganesan founded New Expressive Works (N.E.W.) celebrating multicultural independent performing artists. As Creative Laureate of Portland, Ganesan serves as the official ambassador for its broader creative community.

Jillian Frakes teaches high school language arts and creative writing in southern Oregon. She was the 2012 Poetry Out Loud Oregon state champion and now organizes her school's POL competitions. Jillian is passionate about sharing her love of poetry with her students, encouraging them to use the gift of language to empower themselves and find their unique voices.

Juan Antonio Trujillo (he/him) centers his work on the interplay of ethnic, sexual and other identities. Recently retired from academia, he is co-organizer of the Portland-based Tag! Queer Shorts Festival and

continues to engage his creative impulses through poetry and nonfiction short film.

Falcón Vázquez is a contemporary poet shedding light on social, cultural and gender issues through the awareness of self. In her work she has created a fusion of different writing styles giving a unique life to each poem challenging the norms of poetry and many times prefers to write in free verse venturing out to experience an abstract truth. By creating space for magical realism, healing verses, and raw emotions Falcón Vázquez has discovered poetry as a medicine for the heart and soul.

Accuracy Judges

Clancy Rone, M.Ed., is a lifelong Oregonian. Now semi-retired, she currently teaches homebound students in Medford and has taught English Language Arts in various Rogue Valley public schools since 1978. She has served as Southern Oregon Coordinator for POL since 2013.

Jeb Baldrige is a Portland Community College ASL instructor, president of the Oregon Association of the Deaf and secretary for Oregon ASL Teacher Association (ORASLTA). Jeb grew up loving Ella Mae Lentz and Clayton Valli's ASL poems. They came to California School for the Deaf and gave a workshop that is forever etched in Jeb's heart and mind.

Respondents

Amy Botula is an advocate, writer, and teacher. She is the program manager for Girl Scouts Beyond Bars. Amy taught writing classes for PCC's Community Education program. From 1995 to 2011, Amy served as an English/Language Arts teacher for Portland Public Schools and Hillsboro School District. Her work has been published in *The Rumpus*,

The Manifest-Station, and *Creative Nonfiction*, and she is a former columnist for *Publi-Cola*.

Ian Jones was the 2007 Oregon *Poetry Out Loud* Champion and remains an advocate for both POL and National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo). He is a graduate of Rice University and a Columbia Fellow. Ian is working on the release of his first full-length novel, *Choirboy*. Ian works as a marketing technology specialist for a law firm and teaches several programs at a local athletic club.

Tony Fuemmeler is a theatre artist exploring transformation, expression, and articulation through masks and puppetry. His work has been seen on stage in a variety of Portland stages, as well as across the nation and abroad. His most recent work was a collaborative international installation of emotion masks called *A Universal Feeling*. Tony is passionate about creating classrooms of inquiry for students of all ages. He also works as a mentor to other artist-educators through the Teaching Artist Studio at Young Audiences.

Event Coordinator: **Briana Linden**

Scorekeeper: **Amy Gray**

Sign Interpreters: **Dot Hearn & Kassie Hughes**

Event Broadcast Support: **Allied Video Productions**

Contest Information

Scoring is cumulative throughout all three competition rounds.

One state winner and one runner-up will be selected.

All judges' decisions are final. Scores will not be shared.

Contestants will be scored in the following categories: physical presence, voice & articulation, dramatic appropriateness, evidence of understanding, overall performance and accuracy.

Out of respect for the contestants, please express your appreciation through good sportsmanship.

We will be celebrating the contest on social media. Please join the

national online conversation by using #POL2021 and #iampoetryoutloud on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Oregon Arts Commission

The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at: www.oregonartscommission.org

Poetry Out Loud Information

For more information about becoming involved in *Poetry Out Loud*, please contact:

Oregon Arts Commission

(503) 986-0082

Poetry.OutLoud@oregon.gov

www.oregonartscommission.org/poetryoutloud