

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT

POETRY

**OUT
LOUD®**



2023

**NATIONAL
FINALS**

May 9-10, 2023

**Lisner Auditorium
The George Washington University
Washington, DC**



Established by Congress in 1965, the **National Endowment for the Arts** is an independent federal agency that is the largest funder of the arts and arts education in communities nationwide and a catalyst of public and private support for the arts. By advancing equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, the NEA fosters and sustains an environment in which the arts benefit everyone in the United States. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to learn more.



The **Poetry Foundation** recognizes the power of words to transform lives. The Foundation works to amplify poetry and celebrate poets by fostering spaces for all to create, experience, and share poetry. Follow the Poetry Foundation on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and *Poetry* magazine at [@PoetryMagazine](https://twitter.com/PoetryMagazine).



Mid Atlantic Arts supports artists, presenters, and organizations through unique programming, grant support, partnerships, and information sharing. Created in 1979, Mid Atlantic Arts is aligned with the region's state arts councils and the National Endowment for the Arts. We combine state and federal funding with private support from corporations, foundations, and individuals to nurture diverse artistic expression while connecting people to meaningful arts experiences within our region and beyond. Visit [midatlanticarts.org](https://www.midatlanticarts.org) to learn more.

THE NATIONAL FINALS ARE
ALSO BEING WEBCAST AT
arts.gov



Poetry Out Loud is a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the state and jurisdictional arts agencies of the United States. The Poetry Out Loud National Finals are administered by Mid Atlantic Arts.



WELCOME TO THE 2023 NATIONAL FINALS of Poetry Out Loud. Around the nation, these state and jurisdictional finalists have blazed artful trails to get to this momentous final competition. Each student has dedicated countless hours to recitation practice, fine-tuned their interpretation of verse, and captivated audiences at each round of competition.

What is the role of poetry in today's world? Poetry is an intricate and nuanced art form in which words are carefully arranged to tell stories, paint pictures, and conjure memories. Poetry can evoke a range of emotions and insights, helping people find unanticipated common ground. The power of words can open the world to young people, allowing them to creatively form new connections with words, literature, and people.

As we celebrate another year of Poetry Out Loud and return to gathering in person for our National Finals, let's shine a light on the more than four million students who have participated in Poetry Out Loud since 2005, as well as the 76,000 teachers who have encouraged them in their discovery of poetry, and our partners at the state and jurisdictional arts agencies who help this program to flourish. Poetry Out Loud succeeds because of their time, talent, and dedication. We look forward to continuing to bring this opportunity to more communities and schools nationwide in years to come.

Thank you for joining us, and for your continued support and celebration of our youth—the next generation of poets, leaders, and innovators.

Photo by David K. Riddick



Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD

Chair, National Endowment for the Arts

Michelle T. Boone

President, Poetry Foundation



Photo courtesy of the Poetry Foundation

SEMIFINALS PROGRAM

9:00 a.m.

SEMIFINAL ONE

Hosted by Rayanne Gonzales

1:00 p.m.

SEMIFINAL TWO

Hosted by Adelina Mitchell

5:00 p.m.

SEMIFINAL THREE

Hosted by Don Mike Mendoza

First Round

Remarks

Justine Haka
Lauren Miller

Second Round

INTERMISSION

Awards Presentation

Announcement of Regional Finalists

Top eight competitors in each semifinal
will recite a third poem

Third Round

Announcement of National Finalists

Top three competitors in each semifinal will
advance to National Finals



To access the full text to the selected Semifinals poems, please go to:
<https://www.poetryoutloud.org/2023-poem-documents/>.



HOSTS AND JUDGES

SEMIFINAL ONE

Host

Photo courtesy of the artist



Helen Hayes Award-Winning actress **Rayanne Gonzales** has appeared on Broadway (*Phantom of the Opera*), and film & TV (*In the Heights*, *Sound of Music Live*). Select theater credits include: *Into the Woods* (2023 Broadway Tour); *Mystic Pizza* (world premiere, Ogunquit Playhouse); *A Christmas Carol* (Ford's Theatre); *Anastasia* (world premiere, Hartford Stage); *In the Heights* (Olney Theatre Center, Walnut Street, Sacramento Music Circus); *Destiny of Desire* (world premiere, Arena Stage); and *Daphne's Dive* (Signature Theatre).

Judges

Photo by DC SCORES



Charity Blackwell is a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) practitioner, spoken word artist, and poetry specialist who has spent several years contributing to the arts scene in DC and across national platforms. She is the senior advisor of arts and culture at the arts and sports nonprofit DC SCORES and the D.O.P.E. (Director of Poetry Events) at the well-renowned DC arts cultural hub, Busboys and Poets. She has performed her original work on national and international networks, such as BBC News, TEDxTysons, National Basketball Association (NBA), DC United, the Woman's Sports Foundation, Major

League Soccer Network, the Kennedy Center, and numerous stages across Washington, DC, and the east coast.

Photo by Cassidy DuHon



Dan Brady is the author of the poetry collections *Strange Children* (Publishing Genius, 2018), *Subtexts* (Publishing Genius, 2022), and *Songs in E—* (Trnsfr Books, 2023), winner of the Barclay Prize for Poetry, along with two poetry chapbooks. Previously, Brady served as the editor of *American Poets*, the Academy of American Poets journal, and worked in the literature division at the National Endowment for the Arts, where he received a Distinguished Service Award for his work on the NEA Big Read. He is currently the poetry editor of *Barrelhouse*.

Photo by Hillary Dubie



Leslie Sainz is the author of *Have You Been Long Enough at Table*, forthcoming from Tin House in September 2023.

The daughter of Cuban exiles, she is the recipient of a 2021 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship. Her work has appeared in the *Yale Review*, *New England Review*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *AGNI*, *jubilat*, *Narrative*, and elsewhere. A three-time National Poetry Series finalist, Sainz has received scholarships, fellowships, and honors from CantoMundo, the Miami Writers Institute, the *Adroit Journal*, and the Stadler Center for Poetry & Literary Arts at Bucknell University. She is the managing editor of the *New England Review*.

Photo by Jop Shieh



Simon Shieh is a Taiwanese American poet, essayist, and educator. He is the author of *Master* (Sarabande Books, 2023), selected by Terrance Hayes for the Kathryn A. Morton Prize in Poetry, and the recipient of a 2023 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship and a 2021 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship. Shieh's poems and essays appear and are forthcoming in *Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *Best New Poets*, and the *Yale Review*, among others. Shieh co-founded *Spittoon Literary Magazine*, which translates and publishes the best contemporary Chinese writers.

SEMIFINAL TWO

Host

Photo courtesy of the artist



Adelina Mitchell (she/her) is a national champion in poetry interpretation as well as a professional actress who has been seen in many productions in the area. Some local credits include: Signature Theatre: *Rent*, *Gun & Powder*; The Muny: *Legally Blonde!*; Olney Theatre Center: *The Music Man* (Marian), *A.D. 16* (Ruth); Round House Theatre: *Quixote Nuevo*; and Constellation Theatre Company: *The Last Five Years*.

Judges

Photo by Beowulf Sheehan



Darrel Alejandro Holnes is an Afro-Panamanian American writer. His plays have received productions or readings at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, the Brick Theater, Kitchen Theater Company, and elsewhere. His most recent play, *Black Feminist Video Game*, was produced by the Civilians for 59E59, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, as well as other theaters and won an inaugural Anthem Award. Holnes is the author of *Migrant Psalms* (Northwestern University Press, 2021) and *Stepmotherland* (Notre Dame Press, 2022). He is the recipient of the Andrés Montoya Poetry Prize from Letras Latinas, the Drinking Gourd Poetry Prize, and a 2019 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship. He is currently an artist-in-residence with the Latinx Playwrights Circle.

Photo courtesy of the artist



Dr. Lyla June Johnston (aka Lyla June) is an Indigenous musician, author, and community organizer of Diné (Navajo), Tsétséhéstàhese (Cheyenne), and European lineages. Her multi-genre presentation style has engaged audiences across the globe towards personal, collective, and ecological healing. She blends her study of human ecology at Stanford University, graduate work in Indigenous pedagogy, and the traditional worldview she grew up with to inform her

SEMIFINALS HOSTS AND JUDGES

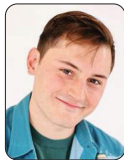
music, perspectives, and solutions. Her doctoral research focused on the ways in which pre-colonial Indigenous Nations shaped large regions of Turtle Island (aka the Americas) to produce abundant food systems for humans and non-humans.

Photo by Amanda Hite



Seema Reza is the author of the poetry collection *A Constellation of Half-Lives* (Write Bloody, 2019) and the hybrid memoir *When the World Breaks Open* (Red Hen Press, 2016). Based in Maryland, she is the CEO of Community Building Art Works, an arts organization that encourages the use of the arts as a tool for narration, self-care, and socialization among a military population struggling with emotional and physical injuries. In 2015, she was awarded the Col. John Gioia Patriot Award by USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore for her work with service members. An alumnus of Goddard College and Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation (VONA), her writing has been widely anthologized and has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *McSweeney's*, and *LitHub*, among others.

Photo by Sam Pickett



Lake Wilburn is an actor, musician, and vocalist based in New York City. In 2014, he won second place in the Poetry Out Loud National Finals (Ohio). He earned his BFA in musical theater from the University of Michigan in 2019. Select credits include Mark in *Rent* and Melchior in *Spring Awakening* (Short North Stage), Mordred in *Camelot* (Sierra

Repertory Theatre), and Pippin in *Pippin* (Summer Repertory Theatre). Wilburn was most recently seen as Frankie Valli in *Jersey Boys* (Mill Mountain Theatre). He has released two EPs and one single of original music, entitled *Howboutdis?*, *Howboutdat?*, and *Not the Same*.

SEMIFINAL THREE

Host

Photo courtesy of the artist



Don Michael "Don Mike" Mendoza is the founder of DMH Mendoza Productions and the co-founder and executive producer of LA TI DO Productions where he's collectively produced more than 400 cabarets, concerts, theatrical shows, and events nationwide since 2012 including executive producing *Hazing U: A Modern Greek Tragedy*, a 2023 Off-Broadway play, and associate producing the first feature musical film about Filipino Americans, *The Girl Who Left Home* (2020). Concurrently, he is an independent marketing professional serving as the first director of Marketing & Media for the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra in Los Angeles, California. He holds a BA in musical theatre and journalism and an MA in strategic communication from American University and is an alumnus of the Commercial Theater Institute.

Judges

Photo by Brian McConkey



Rebecca Morgan Frank is the author of *Oh You Robot Saints!* (2021), *Sometimes We're All Living in a Foreign Country* (2017), and *The Spokes of Venus* (2016), all from Carnegie Mellon University Press, as well as *Little Murders Everywhere* (Salmon, 2012), a finalist for the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Her poems have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, *Kenyon Review*, and her collaborations with composers have been performed widely. She is the recipient of a Meier Foundation Achievement Award, the Poetry Society America's Alice Fay di Castagnola Award, and a Mississippi Arts Commission Fellowship in Poetry. Raised in Virginia, she has taught across the United States and currently lives outside of Chicago.

Photo by Marcela Torres-Cervantes



Chelsea Iorlano is a Latina poet and youth worker, who has called DC home for the past 13 years. Iorlano has worked at Split This Rock for more than six years, previously serving as the youth programs assistant coordinator, a 2018 DC Youth Slam Team head coach, and currently as programs director. She believes in the power of poetry to create connection, shape change, and build power that can transform individuals and communities. In her free time, she finds joy and connection in listening to music and podcasts, stargazing and practicing astrology, having solo at-home dance parties, and writing.



Samuel "Sami" Miranda

grew up in the South Bronx and resides in Washington, DC. He is a visual artist, poet, and teacher who uses his

craft to highlight the value of everyday people and places. Miranda is the author of *Protection from Erasure* (Jaded Ibis Press, 2023), *We Is* (Zozobra Publishing, 2019), and *Departure* (Central Square Press, 2017). He is currently working on collaborative projects with musicians and visual artists on the deep connections made through their artwork. Miranda's artwork has been exhibited in Puerto Rico and Madrid, as well as New York and Washington, DC. Most recently, his artwork has been included in the Smithsonian Institution's Molina Family Latino Gallery inaugural exhibition, *iPresente!*.



Donney Rose is a Baton Rouge-native and Maryland-based performance poet, advocacy journalist, and teaching artist. He is the

creator of *The American Audit*, a suite of multimedia spoken word projects that examine the Black American experience by infusing history, creative verse, and qualitative research into the performance text. His work, which spans two decades on stages and in classrooms, guides others in their creative journeys and brings nuanced and colorful perspectives through the medium of spoken word and other creative outlets. Rose is a former Kennedy Center Citizen Artist Fellow and a recipient of the 2022 Maryland State Arts Council Independent Artist Award for Literary Arts.

POETRY OURSELVES

Poetry Ourselves was launched in 2016 as a part of the National Endowment for the Arts' 50th anniversary celebration and is another way the National Endowment for the Arts encourages student creativity. Each Poetry Out Loud state champion had the opportunity to submit an original work of poetry in one of two categories—written or spoken. Poet Mahogany L. Browne judged this year's submissions. Winning poems may be featured on [Arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) and PoetryOutLoud.org. Winners and runners-up will be announced at the National Finals on May 10.



Mahogany L. Browne, selected as a member of the Kennedy Center Next 50 and Wesleyan's 2022-23 Distinguished Writer-in-Residence, is also the executive director of JustMedia, artistic director of Urban Word, and is a writer, playwright, organizer, and educator. Browne has received fellowships from Arts for Justice, Cave Canem, Poets House, and the Mellon Foundation, among others. She is the author of *Vinyl Moon* (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2022), *Chlorine Sky* (Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021), and *Woke: A Young Poets Call to Justice* (Roaring Brook Press, 2020). Browne's latest poetry collection, *Chrome Valley*, is a promissory note to survival and will be available from Norton in Spring 2023. As she readies for her stage debut of *Chlorine Sky* at Steppenwolf Theater in Chicago, Illinois, she drinks coffee while living in Brooklyn, New York. She is the first ever poet-in-residence at Lincoln Center.

May 10

NATIONAL FINALS PROGRAM

Welcome

Roll Call of State Champions

**National Endowment for the Arts Remarks and
Announcement of Poetry Ourselves Winners**

Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD, Chair

First Round of Recitations

Poetry Foundation Remarks

Michelle T. Boone, President

Second Round of Recitations

Awarding of Medals

Announcement of Three Finalists

National Assembly of State Arts Agencies Remarks

Pam Breaux, President and CEO

Final Round of Recitations

Performance

Alisa Amador

**Announcement of Poetry Out Loud
National Champion**



JUDGES

Photo by Todd Andreff



Crisosto Apache is originally from Mescalero, New Mexico, on the Mescalero Apache reservation, and currently lives in the Denver area with their spouse. They are Mescalero Apache, Chiricahua Apache, and Diné (Navajo) of the Salt Clan born for the Towering House Clan. Apache holds an MFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts, and is an assistant professor of liberal arts at the Rocky Mountain College of Art + Design. Apache is the author of *GENESIS* (Lost Alphabet, 2018), and *Ghostword* (Gnashing Teeth Publication, 2022). They are also the associate poetry editor of the *Offing Magazine*.

Photo courtesy of the artist



H-Dirksen L. Bauman is a professor of Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University located in Washington, DC. Originally hired in the department of English, Dirksen was invited to join the department of Deaf Studies in 1999, where he has taught ever since as the department's only hearing faculty member. During this time, he has served as the co-editor and producer of the book/DVD project *Signing the Body Poetic: Essays in American Sign Language Literature* (University of California Press, 2006) and co-editor of *Deaf-Gain: Raising the Stakes for Human Diversity* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014), among others. He is currently engaged in a collaborative

book-length project featuring poetry in American Sign Language co-created with ASL poet Douglas Ridloff.

Photo by Joel Maisonet



J. Nicole Brooks (she/they) is an actor, writer, director, and educator based in Chicago. As a theater artist, Brooks is an ensemble member and Mellon Foundation Playwright-in-Residence at the Tony Award-winning Lookingglass Theatre Company. As a playwright, Brooks creates original and adapted works including *Black Diamond: The Years the Locusts Have Eaten*, *Fedra Queen of Haiti*, *HeLa*, *Black Moon Lilith*, *1919*, and the award-winning *Her Honor Jane Byrne*. Brooks provided direction for *Mr. Rickey Calls A Meeting*, *Her Honor Jane Byrne*, and *Black Diamond: The Years the Locusts Have Eaten*, among others. Recent television credits include guest recurring roles on *South Side* (HBO Max), *The Chi* (Showtime), *Chicago Fire* (NBC), and *Fargo* (FX Network). Brooks also appeared in *Candyman*, directed by Nia DaCosta and produced by Jordan Peele.

Photo by Michael Mercado Smith



Guadalupe García McCall was born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, and raised in Eagle Pass, Texas. She is the award-winning author of several young adult novels, short stories for adults, and children's poems. McCall has received the prestigious Pura Belpré Award, a Westchester Young Adult Fiction Award, and the Tomás Rivera Mexican-American Children's Book Award, among other accolades. She is currently a visiting professor in the MFA creative writing program at Antioch University in Los Angeles. She lives in Helotes, Texas, where she is working on two novels forthcoming from Bloomsbury in 2023 and 2024, among many other works-in-progress.

Photo by Apple Chua



Diana Khoi Nguyen is a poet, multimedia artist, and author of *Ghost Of* (Omnidawn, 2018), which was a finalist for the National Book Award. Her forthcoming collection, *Root Fractures*, will be published by Scribner in 2024. Nguyen is a Kundiman fellow, a 2021 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellow, and winner of the 92Y Discovery Poetry Contest and 2019 Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Currently, she is core faculty in the Randolph College Low-Residency MFA and an assistant professor at the University of Pittsburgh.

Photo by Ryan Colcord, Pew Center for Arts and Heritage



Brian Teare is the author of eight chapbooks and six critically acclaimed books, including *Companion Grasses* (Omnidawn, 2013), a finalist for the Kingsley Tufts Award, and *Doomstead Days* (Nightboat Books, 2019), winner of the Four Quartets Prize and a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle, Kingsley Tufts, and Lambda Literary Awards. His seventh book, *Poem Bitten by a Man*, is forthcoming in the fall of 2023 from Nightboat Books. A 2020 Guggenheim fellow, his other honors include Lambda Literary and Publishing Triangle Awards, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pew Foundation, and the MacDowell Colony, among many others. He is currently an associate professor of poetry at the University of Virginia, and he lives in Charlottesville, where he makes books by hand for his micropress, Albion Books.



2023 STATE AND JURISDICTIONAL CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to all!

Alabama

Emily Biaz
Auburn High School

Alaska

Brigitta Palepa Ta'aga
West Anchorage High School

American Samoa

Hazel Ipuniuese Leo
Iakina Adventist Academy

Arizona

Biruni Hariadi
Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars Academy

Arkansas

Drew Pirtle
Arkansas School for Mathematics,
Sciences, and the Arts

California

Alex Yue
John F. Kennedy High School

Colorado

Hana Kebede
Overland High School

Connecticut

Wm Leete
Weston High School

Delaware

Maiss Hussein
Paul M. Hodgson Vocational Technical
High School

District of Columbia

Warwick Lloyd
St. Anselm's Abbey School

Florida

Yan Luis Lebron Santiago
Howard W. Blake High School

Georgia

Molly Pitra
St. Pius X Catholic High School

Hawaii

Irene Jiayi Zhong
Punahou School

Idaho

Liam Peterson
Mountain Home High School

Illinois

Yohanna Endashaw
Niles Township High School West

Indiana

Sreepadaarchana Munjuluri
Indiana Humanities

Iowa

Lydia J.M. Newsome
Waterloo West High School

Kansas

Victoria Laine Jelks
Horton High School

Kentucky

Sarah Gamble
Allen County Scottsville High School

Louisiana

Camilla Howell
Zachary High School

Maine

Abigail Case
Hermon High School

Maryland

M. Harris
Indian Creek School

Massachusetts

Jaden D. Riley

John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics
and Science

Michigan

Glenn Deon James Doss Jr.

Melvindale High School

Minnesota

Stella Wright

Robbinsdale Armstrong High School

Mississippi

Edward Wilson Jr.

Jackson Preparatory School

Missouri

Nicholas Merlo

Crossroads College Preparatory School

Montana

Wica-ta-wi Hoksina Brown

Polson High School

Nebraska

Amelia C. Escalante

Bellevue West High School

Nevada

Ashlee Sandoval

Elko High School

New Hampshire

Ella Weinmann

Conant High School

New Jersey

Lydia Smith

Henry Hudson Regional School

New Mexico

Rutendo Musharu

United World College-USA

New York

James Masson

Syosset High School

North Carolina

Abby Sullivan

Weaver Academy

North Dakota

Gabby Johnson

Minot High School

Ohio

Hiba Loukssi

Xenia High School

Oklahoma

AdyLynn Anderson

Lawton High School

Oregon

Kari Morgan

Oregon School for the Deaf

Pennsylvania

Peachy Lee

Lancaster Country Day School

Puerto Rico

Amir Trinidad Vidal

Saint John's School

Rhode Island

Natasha B. Connolly

Classical High School

South Carolina

Catherine Wooten

Westgate Christian School

South Dakota

Grace C. Powell

Dakota Valley High School

Tennessee

Megan Ammons

Harding Academy of Memphis

Texas

Mariam Botana de Armas

Northside School of Innovation, Technology
and Entrepreneurship

United States Virgin Islands

Annelia N. Graham

St. Croix Seventh-day Adventist School

Utah

Aeva West Deltoro-Dye

Dixie High School

Vermont

Greer Kennedy

St. Johnsbury Academy

Virginia

Evalynn Bogusz

Heritage High School

Washington

Matthew Valentine

Olympia High School

West Virginia

Morgan Sprouse

Bridgeport High School

Wisconsin

Riley Grace Saenim

The Prairie School

Wyoming

Elora L. Umbach

Penn Foster High School

May 9

9:00 a.m.

SEMIFINAL ONE

Vermont

Greer Kennedy

"Mr. Darcy" by Victoria Chang

"On the Death of Anne Brontë" by Charlotte Brontë

Maryland

M. Harris

"Stomp" by Nikki Grimes

"No, I wasn't meant to love and be loved"
by Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib

Pennsylvania

Peachy Lee

"Cartoon Physics, part 1" by Nick Flynn

"England in 1819" by Percy Bysshe Shelley

Virginia

Evalynn Bogusz

"'Un Tintero,' Inkwell" by Desirée Alvarez

"Meeting at an Airport" by Taha Muhammad Ali

District of Columbia

Warwick Lloyd

"The Affliction of Richard" by Robert Bridges

"Memory As a Hearing Aid" by Tony Hoagland

New Jersey

Lydia Smith

"anthem for my belly after eating too much" by Kara Jackson

"April Midnight" by Arthur Symons

Rhode Island

Natasha B. Connolly

"Fairy Tale with Laryngitis and Resignation Letter"

by Jehanne Dubrow

"Under the Vulture-Tree" by David Bottoms

West Virginia

Morgan Sprouse

"Perhaps the World Ends Here" by Joy Harjo

"Shall earth no more inspire thee" by Emily Brontë

New York

James Masson

"The Spring" by Thomas Carew

"Larkinesque" by Michael Ryan

Ohio

Hiba Loukssi

"Author's Prayer" by Ilya Kaminsky

"There Are Birds Here" by Jamaal May

Maine

Abigail Case

**"Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan
Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Rezervation"**

by Natalie Diaz

"Respectability" by Tina Boyer Brown

New Hampshire

Ella Weinmann

"It was not Death, for I stood up, (355)" by Emily Dickinson

"When I have Fears That I May Cease to Be" by John Keats

South Carolina

Catherine Wooten

"Holy Sonnets: Death Be not Proud" by John Donne

"Lines Written in Early Spring" by William Wordsworth

Massachusetts

Jaden D. Riley

"The Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes

"April Midnight" by Arthur Symons

U.S. Virgin Islands

Annelia N. Graham

"Hanging Fire" by Audre Lorde

"I look at the world" by Langston Hughes

Connecticut

Wm Leete

"Epitaph" by Katherine Philips

"I Am Offering this Poem" by Jimmy Santiago Baca

North Carolina

Abby Sullivan

"Beautiful Wreckage" by W.D. Ehrhart

"I heard a Fly buzz - when I died, (591)" by Emily Dickinson

Delaware

Maiss Hussein

"No, I wasn't meant to love and be loved"

by Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib

"The Poem You've Been Waiting For" by Tarfia Faizullah

May 9

1:00 p.m.

SEMIFINAL TWO

Indiana

Sreepadaarchana Munjuluri

"Say Grace" by Emily Jungmin Yoon

"The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus

Michigan

Glenn Deon James Doss Jr.

"The Charge of the Light Brigade" by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

"Frederick Douglass" by Robert Hayden

Iowa

Lydia J.M. Newsome

"We Are Not Responsible" by Harriette Mullen

"I am Trying to Break Your Heart" by Kevin Young

Wisconsin

Riley Grace Saenim

"Rain of Statues" by Sarah Lindsay

"Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood

Puerto Rico

Amir Trinidad Vidal

"Black Boys Play the Classics" by Toi Derricotte

"Passing" by Toi Derricotte

Georgia

Molly Pitra

"Gitanjali 35" by Rabindranath Tagore

"The More Loving One" by W.H. Auden

Kansas

Victoria Laine Jelks

"Fredrick Douglass" by Robert Hayden

"Battle-Hymn of the Republic" by Julia Ward Howe

Florida

Yan Luis Lebron Santiago

"April Midnight" by Arthur Symons

"I Am Offering this Poem" by Jimmy Santiago Baca

Missouri

Nicholas Merlo

"Ah! Why, Because the Dazzling Sun" by Emily Brontë

"Another Antipastoral" by Vieve Francis

Illinois

Yohanna Endashaw

"My Therapist Wants to Know about My Relationship to Work"

by Tiana Clark

"Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood

Arkansas

Drew Pirtle

"You, If No One Else" by Tino Villanueva

"Before the Birth of One of Her Children" by Anne Bradstreet

Mississippi

Edward Wilson Jr.

"Beautiful Wreckage" by W.D. Ehrhart

"La Belle Dame sans Merci: A Ballad" by John Keats

Alabama

Emily Biaz

"My dad & sardines" by Toi Derricotte

"Sheltered Garden" by H.D.

Oklahoma

AdyLynn Anderson

"Edgar Allan Poe is Reached at the Baltimore Harbor by the Shadows that Pursue Him" by Fernando Valverde

"I Once Was a Child" by Victoria Chang

Kentucky

Sarah Gamble

"The Albatross" by Kate Bass

"A Hymn to God the Father" by John Donne

Louisiana

Camilla Howell

"Very Large Moth" by Craig Arnold

"Miss you. Would like to grab that chilled tofu we love."

by Gabrielle Calvocoressi

Tennessee

Megan Ammons

"To Have Without Holding" by Marge Piercy

"The Collar" by George Herbert

Nebraska

Amelia C. Escalante

"This Is My Last Report" by Juan Felipe Herrera

"Under the Edge of February" by Jayne Cortez

May 9

5:00 p.m.

SEMIFINAL THREE

North Dakota

Gabby Johnson

"Ode to the Midwest" by Kevin Young

"Black Matters" by Keith S. Wilson

New Mexico

Rutendo Musharu

"How to Triumph Like a Girl" by Ada Limón

"This Is Not a Small Voice" by Sonia Sanchez

Colorado

Hana Kebede

"What the Oracle Said" by Shara McCallum

"Songs for the People" by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Arizona

Biruni Hariadi

"Mr. Darcy" by Victoria Chang

"Mimesis" by Fady Joudah

American Samoa

Hazel Ipaniuese Leo

"Where did the handsome beloved go?" by Jalal al-Din Rumi

"Blade, Unplugged" by Tim Seibles

California

Alex Yue

"Filling Station" by Elizabeth Bishop

"The Conqueror Worm" by Edgar Allan Poe

Idaho

Liam Peterson

"I am Trying to Break Your Heart" by Kevin Young

"A Thank-You Note" by Michael Ryan

Nevada

Ashlee Sandoval

"Poem Toward People" by Ariel Yelen

"Superstition" by Ashley August

Minnesota

Stella Wright

"The Negro Speaks of Rivers" by Langston Hughes

"I Am!" by John Clare

Utah

Aeva West Deltoro-Dye

"Summer" by Chen Chen

"The Only Mexican" by David Tomas Martinez

Montana

Wica-ta-wi Hoksina Brown

**"Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan
Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Rezervation"**

by Natalie Diaz

"We Are Not Responsible" by Harryette Mullen

Washington

Matthew Valentine

"The Mortician in San Francisco" by Randall Mann

"NUMBERS" by Mary Cornish

Texas

Mariam Botana de Armas

"El Olvido" by Judith Ortiz Cofer

"And If I Did, What Then?" by George Gascoigne

Alaska

Brigitta Palepa Ta'aga

"Time does not bring relief; you all have lied" by Edna St. Vincent Millay

"Candles" by Carl Dennis

South Dakota

Grace C. Powell

"The Children's Hour" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"When I Am Asked" by Lisel Mueller

Wyoming

Elora L. Umbach

**"Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan
Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Reservation"**

by Natalie Diaz

"Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou

Oregon

Kari Morgan

"Self-Portrait" by Chase Twichell

"Ways of Talking" by Ha Jin

Hawaii

Irene Jiayi Zhong

"Tomorrow" by Dennis O'Driscoll

"The Coming Woman" by Mary Weston Fordham

PRODUCTION AND GUESTS

Photo courtesy of the artist



Michael Baron (director) is the producing artistic director of Lyric Theatre-The Official State Theatre of Oklahoma. He has directed over 100 productions at theaters across the country including *Fun Home*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Carousel*, *Head Over Heels*, *Bright Star*, *Dreamgirls*, *Assassins*, *Big Fish*, *Oklahoma!*, *Les Miserables*, *Big River*, *Spring Awakening*, *Master Class*, *Ragtime*, *Oliver!*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (ZACH Theatre), and the current production of *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre. Most recently, he co-directed the ASL/Spoken English musical productions of *Cinderella* (ZACH Theatre/Deaf Austin Theatre) and *The Music Man* (Olney Theatre). He earned his MFA in directing from Trinity Repertory and a BA in theater from Wake Forest University.

Phil Reese (DJ)

Phil Reese the DJ has been a Washington, DC-based pop, house, and disco DJ since 2014. Reese's parties stress good vibes, a welcoming spirit, diversity, and intersectionality. When he is not DJing, Reese is a web developer for one of the area's most historic colleges.

Musical Guest

Photo courtesy of the artist



The winner of the 2022 *NPR Tiny Desk Contest*, **Alisa Amador**'s music is a synthesis of the many styles she's voraciously absorbed: rock, jazz, funk, and alternative folk, all wrapped in the spirit of the Latin music she grew up with. NPR's Cyrena Touros calls her "a pitch-perfect rendition of my wildest dreams," and NPR's Bob Boilen calls Alisa "a powerful voice whose tender performance commands attention and fosters connection."

ASL Interpreters

Mia Engle and Steve Phan

POETRY OUT LOUD IS MANAGED AT THE STATE/JURISDICTIONAL LEVEL BY

Alabama State Council on the Arts	Kentucky Arts Council	Oregon Arts Commission
Alaska State Council on the Arts	Louisiana Division of the Arts	Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, and Humanities	Maine Arts Commission	Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña
Arizona Commission on the Arts	Maryland State Arts Council	Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
Arkansas Arts Council	Massachusetts Cultural Council	South Carolina Arts Commission
California Arts Council	Michigan Arts and Culture Council	South Dakota Arts Council
Colorado Creative Industries	Minnesota State Arts Board	Tennessee Arts Commission
Connecticut Office of the Arts	Mississippi Arts Commission	Texas Commission on the Arts
Delaware Division of the Arts	Missouri Arts Council	Utah Division of Arts & Museums
DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities	Montana Arts Council	Vermont Arts Council
Florida Division of Arts and Culture	Nebraska Arts Council	Virgin Islands Council on the Arts
Georgia Council for the Arts	Nevada Arts Council	Virginia Commission for the Arts
Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts	New Hampshire State Council on the Arts	Washington State Arts Commission: ArtsWA
Idaho Commission on the Arts	New Jersey State Council on the Arts	West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History
Illinois Arts Council Agency	New Mexico Arts	Wisconsin Arts Board
Indiana Arts Commission	New York State Council on the Arts	Wyoming Arts Council
Iowa Arts Council	North Carolina Arts Council	<i>and many incredible partners</i>
Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission	North Dakota Council on the Arts	
	Ohio Arts Council	
	Oklahoma Arts Council	



PRIZES

NATIONAL FINALS

1ST PLACE: \$20,000 award

2ND PLACE: \$10,000 award

3RD PLACE: \$5,000 award

4TH-9TH PLACES: \$1,000 award

The schools or organizations of the top nine finalists will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry materials.

The fourth-place student in each semifinal competition will receive an honorable mention award of \$1,000, with \$500 to their school or organization for the purchase of poetry materials.

STATE FINALS

More than \$50,000 in monetary prizes were awarded at state final competitions.

The Poetry Foundation provides and administers all aspects of the monetary prizes awarded in Poetry Out Loud.

Awards will be made in the form of lump sum cash payouts, reportable to the IRS. Tax liabilities are the sole responsibility of the winners and their families.

POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

2022

Mia Ronn

California

2021

Rahele Megosha

South Dakota

2020

No champion due to the COVID-19 pandemic

2019

Isabella Callery

Minnesota

2018

Janae Claxton

South Carolina

2017

Samara Elán Huggins

Georgia

2016

Ahkei Togun

Virginia

2015

Maeva Ordaz

Alaska

2014

Anita Norman

Tennessee

2013

Langston Ward

Washington

2012

Kristen Dupard

Mississippi

2011

Youssef Biaz

Alabama

2010

Amber Rose Johnson

Rhode Island

2009

William Farley

Virginia

2008

Shawntay Henry

U.S. Virgin Islands

2007

Amanda Fernandez

District of Columbia

2006

Jackson Hille

Ohio

2005 (PILOT YEAR)

Stephanie Oparaugo

Washington, DC

and

Devin Kenny

Chicago, Illinois

