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 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.

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 to learn more.

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.

Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD  
Chair, National Endowment for the Arts

Michelle T. Boone  
President, Poetry Foundation
May 9

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

Dan Brady is the author of the poetry collections Strange Children (Publishing Genius, 2018), Subtexts (Publishing Genius, 2022), and Songs in E—— (Tmsfr 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.

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.

Simon Shihe 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. Shihe’s poems and essays appear and are forthcoming in Poetry, American Poetry Review, Best New Poets, and the Yale Review, among others. Shihe co-founded Spittoon Literary Magazine, which translates and publishes the best contemporary Chinese writers.

SEMIFINAL TWO

Host

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

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 LetrasLatinas, 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.

Dr. Lyla June Johnston (aka Lyla June) is an Indigenous musician, author, and community organizer of Diné (Navajo), Tsétsëhéstâhese (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.

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.

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

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

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.

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, ¡Presente!.

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 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 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

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.

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.

**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.

**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 Belpre 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.

**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.

**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.
Congratulations to all!

**Alabama**
Emily Biaz  
Auburn High School

**Alaska**
Brigitta Palepa Ta’aga  
West Anchorage High School

**American Samoa**
Hazel Ipuniuesea 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

**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
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<td>Greer Kennedy</td>
<td>&quot;Mr. Darcy&quot; by Victoria Chang</td>
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<td>&quot;On the Death of Anne Brontë&quot; by Charlotte Brontë</td>
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<td>Maryland</td>
<td>M. Harris</td>
<td>&quot;Stomp&quot; by Nikki Grimes</td>
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<td>&quot;No, I wasn’t meant to love and be loved” by Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib</td>
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<td>Peachy Lee</td>
<td>&quot;Cartoon Physics, part 1&quot; by Nick Flynn</td>
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<td>&quot;England in 1819&quot; by Percy Bysshe Shelley</td>
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<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Evalynn Bogusz</td>
<td>&quot;Un Tintero,’ Inkwell” by Desirée Alvarez</td>
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<td>&quot;Meeting at an Airport” by Taha Muhammad Ali</td>
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<td>District of Columbia</td>
<td>Warwick Lloyd</td>
<td>&quot;The Affliction of Richard” by Robert Bridges</td>
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<td>&quot;Memory As a Hearing Aid” by Tony Hoagland</td>
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<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Lydia Smith</td>
<td>&quot;anthem for my belly after eating too much” by Kara Jackson</td>
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<td>&quot;April Midnight” by Arthur Symons</td>
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<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Natasha B. Connolly</td>
<td>&quot;Fairy Tale with Laryngitis and Resignation Letter” by Jehanne Dubrow</td>
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<td>&quot;Under the Vulture-Tree” by David Bottoms</td>
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<td>West Virginia</td>
<td>Morgan Sprouse</td>
<td>&quot;Perhaps the World Ends Here” by Joy Harjo</td>
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<td>&quot;Shall earth no more inspire thee” by Emily Brontë</td>
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<td>New York</td>
<td>James Masson</td>
<td>&quot;The Spring” by Thomas Carew</td>
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<td>&quot;Larkinesque” by Michael Ryan</td>
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<td>State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Hiba Loukssi</td>
<td>“Author’s Prayer” by Ilya Kaminsky</td>
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<td>“There Are Birds Here” by Jamaal May</td>
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<td>Maine</td>
<td>Abigail Case</td>
<td>“Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Reservation” by Natalie Diaz</td>
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<td>“Respectability” by Tina Boyer Brown</td>
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<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Ella Weinmann</td>
<td>“It was not Death, for I stood up, (355)” by Emily Dickinson</td>
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<td>“When I have Fears That I May Cease to Be” by John Keats</td>
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<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Catherine Wooten</td>
<td>“Holy Sonnets: Death Be not Proud” by John Donne</td>
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<td>“Lines Written in Early Spring” by William Wordsworth</td>
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<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>Jaden D. Riley</td>
<td>“The Negro Speaks of Rivers” by Langston Hughes</td>
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<td>“April Midnight” by Arthur Symons</td>
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<td>U.S. Virgin Islands</td>
<td>Annelia N. Graham</td>
<td>“Hanging Fire” by Audre Lorde</td>
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<td>“I look at the world” by Langston Hughes</td>
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<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Wm Leete</td>
<td>“Epitaph” by Katherine Philips</td>
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<td>“I Am Offering this Poem” by Jimmy Santiago Baca</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>Abby Sullivan</td>
<td>“Beautiful Wreckage” by W.D. Ehrhart</td>
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<td>“I heard a Fly buzz - when I died, (591)” by Emily Dickinson</td>
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<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Maiss Hussein</td>
<td>“No, I wasn’t meant to love and be loved” by Mirza Asadullah Khan Ghalib</td>
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<td>“The Poem You’ve Been Waiting For” by Tarfia Faizullah</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
<td>Sreepadaarchana Munjuluri</td>
<td>“Say Grace” by Emily Jungmin Yoon</td>
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<td>Iowa</td>
<td>Lydia J.M. Newsome</td>
<td>“We Are Not Responsible” by Harryette Mullen</td>
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<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<td>“Black Boys Play the Classics” by Toi Derricotte</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Molly Pitra</td>
<td>“Gitanjali 35” by Rabindranath Tagore</td>
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<td>Florida</td>
<td>Yan Luis Lebron Santiago</td>
<td>“April Midnight” by Arthur Symons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Nicholas Merlo</td>
<td>“Ah! Why, Because the Dazzling Sun” by Emily Brontë</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>Poems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Yohanna Endashaw</td>
<td>“My Therapist Wants to Know about My Relationship to Work” by Tiana Clark, “Siren Song” by Margaret Atwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Drew Pirtle</td>
<td>“You, If No One Else” by Tino Villanueva, “Before the Birth of One of Her Children” by Anne Bradstreet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>Emily Biaz</td>
<td>“My dad &amp; sardines” by Toi Derricotte, “Sheltered Garden” by H.D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>AdyLynn Anderson</td>
<td>“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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>Sarah Gamble</td>
<td>“The Albatross” by Kate Bass, “A Hymn to God the Father” by John Donne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana</td>
<td>Camilla Howell</td>
<td>“Very Large Moth” by Craig Arnold, “Miss you. Would like to grab that chilled tofu we love.” by Gabrielle Calvocoressi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Megan Ammons</td>
<td>“To Have Without Holding” by Marge Piercy, “The Collar” by George Herbert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Amelia C. Escalante</td>
<td>“This Is My Last Report” by Juan Felipe Herrera, “Under the Edge of February” by Jayne Cortez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>Poem 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>North Dakota</td>
<td>Gabby Johnson</td>
<td>“Ode to the Midwest” by Kevin Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Rutendo Musharu</td>
<td>“How to Triumph Like a Girl” by Ada Limón</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Hana Kebede</td>
<td>“What the Oracle Said” by Shara McCallum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Biruni Hariadi</td>
<td>“Mr. Darcy” by Victoria Chang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa</td>
<td>Hazel Ipuniuese Leo</td>
<td>“Where did the handsome beloved go?” by Jalal al-Din Rumi</td>
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<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Alex Yue</td>
<td>“Filling Station” by Elizabeth Bishop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Liam Peterson</td>
<td>“I am Trying to Break Your Heart” by Kevin Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Ashlee Sandoval</td>
<td>“Poem Toward People” by Ariel Yelen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Stella Wright</td>
<td>“The Negro Speaks of Rivers” by Langston Hughes</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Participant</td>
<td>Poems</td>
</tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Aeva West Deltoro-Dye</td>
<td>“Summer” by Chen Chen&lt;br&gt;“The Only Mexican” by David Tomas Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Wica-ta-wi Hoksina Brown</td>
<td>“Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Reservation” by Natalie Diaz&lt;br&gt;“We Are Not Responsible” by Harryette Mullen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Matthew Valentine</td>
<td>“The Mortician in San Francisco” by Randall Mann&lt;br&gt;“NUMBERS” by Mary Cornish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>Mariam Botana de Armas</td>
<td>“El Olvido” by Judith Ortiz Cofer&lt;br&gt;“And If I Did, What Then?” by George Gascoigne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Brigitta Palepa Ta’aga</td>
<td>“Time does not bring relief; you all have lied” by Edna St. Vincent Millay&lt;br&gt;“Candles” by Carl Dennis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>Grace C. Powell</td>
<td>“The Children’s Hour” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow&lt;br&gt;“When I Am Asked” by Lisel Mueller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Elora L. Umbach</td>
<td>“Abecedarian Requiring Further Examination of Anglikan Seraphym Subjugation of a Wild Indian Reservation” by Natalie Diaz&lt;br&gt;“Caged Bird” by Maya Angelou</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Kari Morgan</td>
<td>“Self-Portrait” by Chase Twichell&lt;br&gt;“Ways of Talking” by Ha Jin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Irene Jiayi Zhong</td>
<td>“Tomorrow” by Dennis O’Driscoll&lt;br&gt;“The Coming Woman” by Mary Weston Fordham</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRODUCTION AND GUESTS

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

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.

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 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.

STATE FINALS

More than $50,000 in monetary prizes were awarded at state final competitions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Champion Name</th>
<th>State/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Mia Ronn</td>
<td>California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>Rahele Megosha</td>
<td>South Dakota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>No champion due to COVID-19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Isabella Callery</td>
<td>Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Janae Claxton</td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Samara Elán Huggins</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Ahkei Togun</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Maeva Ordaz</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Anita Norman</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Langston Ward</td>
<td>Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Kristen Dupard</td>
<td>Mississippi</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Youssef Biaz</td>
<td>Alabama</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Amber Rose Johnson</td>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>William Farley</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Shawntay Henry</td>
<td>U.S. Virgin Islands</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Amanda Fernandez</td>
<td>District of Columbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Jackson Hille</td>
<td>Ohio</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Stephanie Oparaugo</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Pilot Year)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Devin Kenny</td>
<td>Chicago, Illinois</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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