

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD
in partnership with the
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
and
POETRY FOUNDATION
present



2008 MINNESOTA STATE COMPETITION

FITZGERALD THEATER

MARCH 10, 2008



POETRY OUT LOUD

2008 MINNESOTA STATE COMPETITION

presented by the

MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD

in partnership with the

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

and

POETRY FOUNDATION

Fitzgerald Theater, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Monday, March 10, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

Welcome



Round One Competition



Short Break



Round Two Competition



Break with Entertainment



Round Three Competition



Tabulation of Scores



Announcement of Winners





A poem should be equal to:
Not true.

For all the history of grief
An empty doorway and a maple leaf.

For love
The leaning grasses and two lights above the sea—

A poem should not mean
But be.



Excerpted from “Ars Poetica” by Archibald MacLeish

Throughout time and civilizations, poets and poetry have had important roles to play. Poets are dreamers. Poets convey truth. Poets interpret and describe. Poets incite and inspire. Poets capture inexpressible joy and heartbreak.

For those of us who love language, the *Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest* is a welcome initiative. Through it, a new generation of readers are becoming excited about great poetry. In the *Poetry Out Loud* anthology a student can try on a little Shakespeare or Shelley; if that doesn't fit well, he or she can sample some Sherman Alexie or Amy Uyematsung. For young people who love to perform, the discipline of the language and the memorization helps students improve their poise and public speaking skills.

This is the third year that the Minnesota State Arts Board has had the honor of working with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation to present *Poetry Out Loud* in Minnesota. A contest of this sort requires a great many collaborators. We want to thank and congratulate all the students who participated this year. We hope they've come away from the contest with a new appreciation of language, and a few poems they can carry with them always. We also want to thank and congratulate the teachers and administrators who coordinated the contests in their schools, and gave their students the chance to participate. In an already full school day, we hope the poems read and shared have provided moments of light and inspiration.

A poem is a path—a way to journey through a place, a time, an emotion, or an experience. Like the students who participate in *Poetry Out Loud*, I hope each of us finds time to take a few steps on that journey every day. The landscapes we explore, and the discoveries we make along the way, will be their own reward.

Sue Gens
Interim Executive Director
Minnesota State Arts Board

REGIONAL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS and STUDENTS

Arrowhead Regional Competition

Judges

Bob DeArmond
Corinna Korthals
Justin Powers
Doug Skrief

Albrook High School

Mary Castellini, Lead Teacher

Jana Roach

Babbitt-Embarrass School

Amber Van Hale, Lead Teacher

Christina Serena

Cotton High School

Kelly Engman, Lead Teacher

Julie Nyborg

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Carolyn Olson, Lead Teacher

Jeremy Ammesmaki

Harbor City International

Anne Wise, Lead Teacher

Erin Immerfall
Devin Welch

Central Metro Regional Competition

Judges

Lightsey Darst
John Minczeski
Joyce Sutphen
Claire Wilson

Augsburg Fairview Academy

Kendra Perry, Lead Teacher

Jiccarra Hollman
Caleb Wolfe

Clara Barton Open School

Amber Damm, Lead Teacher

Jahlie Shackelford
Kirsten Wiard-Bauer

North High School

Chanda Abdul-Quddoos,
Lead Teacher

Shakira Onwachi

South High School

Marcia Sutherland,
Lead Teacher

Brandi Ingberg

* *Poetry Out Loud* uses a pyramid structure. School winners compete at the regional level. Regional winners compete at the state level.

Lake Regional Competition

Judges

Luke Anderson
Joan Jarvis Ellison
Sharon Miltich

Morris Area High School

David Johnson, Lead Teacher

Mary Hu
Sami Searle

Underwood High School

Debbie Darchuk, Lead Teacher

Stephanie Hagen
Monika Pachel

Northwest Metro Regional Competition

Judges

Stephanie Brown
Louise Kuester
Jeff Prauer
Myles Wagner

Brooklyn Center Secondary

Kristin Wayne, Lead Teacher

Natali Figueroa
Tremayne Wells

Champlin Park High School

Carol Allen, Lead Teacher

Lisa Evanson
Sadiq Lateef

Mounds View High School

Shawn Burback, Lead Teacher
Tiffaney Krauth, Lead Teacher

Tia Brodsky
Cahlor Stedman



This is the one song everyone
would like to learn: the song
that is irresistible:

the song that forces men
to leap overboard in squadrons
even though they see the beached skulls



Excerpted from "Siren Song" by Margaret Atwood

REGIONAL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS and STUDENTS

Southeast Metro Regional Competition

Judges

Margot Galt

Melissa Olson

Agriculture and Food Sciences Academy

Stephanie Arnold, Lead Teacher

Kat Elwell

Jack Heyda

Eastview High School

Patty Strandquist, Lead Teacher

Colin Burke

Peter Ingles

Math and Science Academy

Leah Bruggeman, Lead Teacher

Nathaniel Buck

Saranya Sathiamoorthi

Tartan High School

Kimberlee Presswood,
Lead Teacher

Phua Tashie Xiong

Southeast Minnesota Regional Competition

Judges

Lea Assenmacher

Hal Cropp

Stef Dickens

Adrian High School

Peg Kruger, Lead Teacher

Matthew Cook

Alyssa Sauer

Rushford-Peterson High School

Forrest Musselman, Lead Teacher

Emily Frick

Carina Schiltz

Triton High School

Kris Giesen, Lead Teacher

Mariah Benda

Alyssa Perau

Wabasha-Kellogg High School

Cris Medina, Lead Teacher

Ryan Bronner

Thomas Smit



Laugh, and the world laughs with you;
Weep, and you weep alone;
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.
Sing, and the hills will answer;
Sigh, it is lost on the air;
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,
But shrink from voicing care.



Excerpted from “Solitude” by Ella Wheeler Wilcox



STUDENT FINALISTS

Nathaniel Buck

Math and Science Academy, Woodbury

"My Last Duchess" by Robert Browning

"The Spider and The Fly" by Mary Howitt

"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll



Nathaniel Buck is a junior at the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury, and has been an avid gamer since he was two. He's been pretty busy with things lately, with twelve extracurricular activities and ten hours of dance per week, in addition to countless independent projects. He does still have free time occasionally, however, so he's not that concerned.

Jiccarra Hollman

Augsburg Fairview Academy, Minneapolis

"We Wear the Mask" by Paul Laurence Dunbar

"Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou

"Ballad of Birmingham" by Dudley Randall



Jiccarra Hollman is sixteen years old and a tenth grader at Augsburg Fairview Academy for Health Careers. She plans to go to college and then go on to become a dentist or pediatrician. She enjoys participating in *Poetry Out Loud* because it gives her a chance to show different parts of herself and learn about other people's perspectives. Outside school, she is a member of the Minnesota Youth Advisory Council and a volunteer tutor at Hope Academy. She also enjoys modeling and acting.

Mary Hu

Morris Area High School, Morris

"Bilingual/Bilingüe" by Rhina P. Espallat

"Mrs. Krikorian" by Sharon Olds

"Hap" by Thomas Hardy



Mu-En, Mary Hu, Maria, Yo-lego, Moo-Moo... So many different names, so many languages. Born on a tiny island of Taiwan (smaller than Minnesota), Mary arrived as the first child in her family on October 12, 1991. She grew up speaking Mandarin Chinese. After spending her childhood eating her grandma's homemade stir fry frog legs and roughing up the boys in her kindergarten class, life went loopsie for Mary. Her family moved to the U.S. in 1999, when she entered second grade. Mary loves manga, cats, fan fiction, running, filming, tea, and traveling!

Sadiq Lateef

Champlin Park High School, Anoka

"Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe

"The Spider and the Fly" by Mary Howitt

"Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" by Dylan Thomas



Sadiq Lateef is sixteen years old and is a sophomore at Champlin Park High School. Originally from Laurinburg, North Carolina, Sadiq has since moved to Champlin, Minnesota. The activities that he has been active in include soccer, football, debate, and speech. He is the eldest of four children and is the son of Hamza and Sadiat Lateef. He currently has no pets and says that he is invested in school.

Julie Nyborg

Cotton High School, Cotton

"Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe

"Let It Be Forgotten" by Sara Teasdale

"Song of the Powers" by David Mason



Julie Nyborg is a freshman at the Cotton High School. Julie enjoys many activities both in and out of school. Julie plays the piano and alto sax and aspires to learn to play the guitar. She enjoys drawing and painting both in art class and in her spare time. Julie also enjoys hunting, fishing, and swimming. In school Julie is involved in POY Youth Group, newspaper, Upward Bound, and speech team. Julie loves to read and write. Some of her favorite authors include Stephanie Meyer, Holly Black, and Tamara Pierce. Her favorite poets are e.e. cummings and Robert Frost.

Monika Pachel

Underwood High School, Underwood

"You Charmed Me Not With That Fair Face" by John Dryden

"Happiness" by Jane Kenyon

"Waving Goodbye" by Gerald Stern



Monika Pachel is proud to be a junior at Underwood High School. The word that best describes her is "spontaneous." She's always up for anything that gets thrown at her and can make it work. Monika is always looking for new opportunities to achieve. Monika finds poetry an interesting way to express herself. From happy to sad the varieties of what one can do with a poem are endless. Monika enjoys English class and learning poetry. She also participated in volleyball this fall and now works at Target. At Target, she's met new people and been kept very busy.

STUDENT FINALISTS

Alyssa Perau

Triton High School, Dodge Center

"Song: Go and catch a falling star" by John Donne
"A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
"Forgetfulness" by Billy Collins



Alyssa Perau is a senior at Triton High School in Dodge Center. She is a member of the National Honor Society and participates in Earth Club, choir, theater, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She also works as an intern at the local newspaper. Theater is her passion and she will be pursuing a BFA in acting at Viterbo University. In her free time she enjoys going to plays or movies, listening to show tunes, making colorful rice krispie bars for her friends and spending time with her "little sister."

Saranya Sathiamoorthi

Math and Science Academy, Woodbury

"A Psalm of Life" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
"Forgetfulness" by Billy Collins
"Dancers Exercising" by Amy Clampitt



Saranya Sathiamoorthi is fifteen and a sophomore in high school. She was born in India and immigrated to the U.S. when she was five years old. She now goes to the Math and Science Academy in Woodbury. Her favorite subject is math, coincidentally. Saranya is in the National Honor Society and the Student Council. Saranya does a lot of charity work, volunteering in a hospital on the weekends. Saranya loves sports in general and has recently taken up snowboarding, which she is learning very painfully.

Thomas Smit

Wabasha-Kellogg High School, Wabasha

"The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost
"Preludes" by T. S. Eliot
"Dulce et Decorum Est" by Wilfred Owen



Thomas Smit is currently in tenth grade. He enjoys many extra-curricular activities including but not limited to theater, speech, cross country, Honors Choir, math team, and band. He has many hobbies, some of which are reading, singing, and listening to music. Thomas also really enjoys playing chess. He enjoys poetry and is very glad to be able to be here this day. His favorite TV show is "Lost," his favorite movie is *Princess Mononoke*. He thanks you for all coming here and hopes you enjoy the recitation.

Devin Welch



Harbor City International, Duluth

"Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" by Dylan Thomas

"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll

"The Owl and the Pussycat" by Edward Lear

Devin Welch, writer and poet, is a junior at Harbor City International School in Duluth, Minnesota. His favorite activities are paintball, singing, and reading, but not necessarily in that order. Active in drama at Harbor City School, he recently played an old man in the one-act play *Iphigenia*. He loves singing Irish drinking songs, classical lullabies, and the Beatles; and he's a baritone in the high school choir. Devin credits his father for giving him knowledge and the ability to think before acting—on most occasions!

Caleb Wolfe



Augsburg Fairview Academy, Minneapolis

"Jabberwocky" by Lewis Carroll

"Song" by Edmund Waller

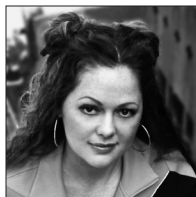
"If—" by Rudyard Kipling

Caleb Wolfe is an eighteen-year-old senior at Augsburg Fairview Academy for Health Careers. After graduation, he plans to attend college and study graphic design. He likes performing in *Poetry Out Loud* and finds it a good way to express himself. In his spare time, he enjoys drawing, martial arts, and playing saxophone.

Tia Brodsky

Mounds View High School, Arden Hills

Desdamona



Desdamona is the premiere female hip hop and spoken word artist in the Midwest, and a five-time Minnesota Music Award winner for Best Spoken Word Artist. She is a cofounder of B-Girl Be, a celebration of women in hip-hop, and works throughout the Midwest in schools and prisons. She has toured with reggae all-stars Sly & Robbie. Desdamona will be performing with creative partner Carnage in the duo aptly named “Ill Chemistry.” The duo combines Desdamona’s soulful, thought-provoking lyrics with Carnage’s cleverly executed beatbox skills and rhyming to deliver a raw sound in an energetic and engaging live hip-hop show. Desdamona and Carnage can be found on iTunes and MySpace.



“It seems to me,” said Booker T.,
“It shows a mighty lot of cheek
To study chemistry and Greek
When Mister Charlie needs a hand
To hoe the cotton on his land,
And when Miss Ann looks for a cook,
Why stick your nose inside a book?”



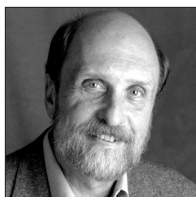
Excerpted from “Booker T. and W.E.B.” by Dudley Randall

Carol Connolly



Carol Connolly, Saint Paul Poet Laureate, the first named to that position, is the author of *Payments Due*, a book of poems published by Midwest Villages and Voices, founded by the poet Meridel LeSueur. *Payments Due* (now in its third printing) was later produced for the stage by OBIE winner C. Bernard Jackson at the Ivar Theater in Los Angeles and then by the Lyric Theatre in Minneapolis. Connolly has worked as a writer with the New York-based Warner Brother's Wonder Woman Foundation; as *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* "Connections" columnist; and as *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine* "People" columnist.

Mark Vinz



Mark Vinz was born in North Dakota, grew up in Minneapolis and the Kansas City area, attended the universities of Kansas and New Mexico, and joined the Moorhead State College English department in the fall of 1968, specializing in modern and contemporary literature. He was one of the developers of Minnesota State University Moorhead's master of fine arts in creative writing program, and its first director from 1995-98. He retired from full time teaching in the spring of 2007. His poems, stories, and essays have appeared in over 200 magazines and anthologies. A recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in poetry, Vinz has also won three Minnesota Book Awards.

Pauline Brunette Danforth

Pauline Brunette Danforth gives voice to strong ancestral women who struggled to make a living in the changing reservation and urban world of the twentieth century. More recently, the guileless wisdom of her adopted son adds to this wise matriarchal inheritance. Her memoir pieces are published in local and national anthologies. Pauline has a BA in Mass Communications from Bemidji State University and a PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. She lives in Roseville, Minnesota, with her family and three neurotic cats.

SPONSORS

Minnesota State Arts Board

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The Minnesota State Arts Board is a state agency that stimulates and encourages the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in the state.

Ensuring that all Minnesotans have the opportunity to participate in the arts

National Endowment for the Arts

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (202) 682-5400
Washington, DC 20506 www.arts.endow.gov

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established—bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education.

Poetry Foundation

444 North Michigan Avenue (312) 787-7070
Suite 1850 www.poetryfoundation.org
Chicago, Illinois 60611-4034

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring the best poetry before the largest possible audiences.

Minnesota Public Radio

480 Cedar Street (800) 228-7123
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101 minnesota.publicradio.org

Minnesota Public Radio is one of the nation's premiere public radio organizations. With headquarters in the heart of downtown Saint Paul, Minnesota Public Radio operates a regional network of 37 stations, covering Minnesota and parts of Wisconsin, the Dakotas, Michigan, Iowa, and Idaho.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Tom Crann, host of Minnesota Public Radio's "All Things Considered"



The Fitzgerald Theater
with partial support from
the City of Saint Paul
Cultural STAR Program



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ABOUT POETRY OUT LOUD

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation work in partnership with state arts agencies of the United States to support the expansion of *Poetry Out Loud*, which encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

Recitation and performance are major new trends in poetry. There has been a recent resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of hip-hop music. *Poetry Out Loud* builds on that momentum by inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the English class.

Poetry Out Loud satisfies more than half of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) English language arts standards. Participating schools receive free course and curriculum materials including print and online poetry anthologies, a program guide, and an audio CD.

Minnesota's state winner will receive \$200, a membership in The Loft Literary Center, and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington to compete for the national championship in April 2008. The state winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. A runner-up in each state will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library. Participants will also receive poetry books contributed by local publishers and Magnetic Poetry packets. A total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends will be awarded to the winners at the national level.

Schools that would like more information about *Poetry Out Loud*, or would like to participate in the future, are encouraged to contact:

Amy Frimpong
amy.frimpong@arts.state.mn.us
(651) 215-1607
Toll-free (800) 866-2787
TTY (651) 215-6235

Registration to participate in 2009 will begin in September 2008.





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F O U N D A T I O N

