

The Washington State Arts Commission Presents:

# POETRY OUT LOUD



## 2020-21 Washington State Final

Broadcast Online | March 16, 2021 at 6:30pm



WASHINGTON STATE  
ARTS COMMISSION

# Welcome to Poetry Out Loud 2021

When the *Poetry Out Loud* program first started in 2005, 8 schools in a single Washington State county participated. This year, 28 schools from 15 counties in Washington State participated in *Poetry Out Loud*.

After classroom-level competitions and school-wide competitions, these schools sent their top students to participate in one of four regional finals, held virtually this year in Central, Eastern, Northwest, and Southwest.

**Students from each of these four regional finals have advanced to the State Final, which is being held virtually this year, with students submitting videos of their recited poems.**

**These ten students are competing for the title of Washington State *Poetry Out Loud* Champion for 2021.**

The winner of the State Final will receive \$200, and the winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second-place finalist will receive \$100, with \$200 for their school library. The state champion will represent Washington State in the National Finals which is also being held virtually. The semi-finals will be broadcast online on May 2; the finals will be broadcast on March 27, 2021.

The *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals will award a total of \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the National Champion.

## About Poetry Out Loud



*Poetry Out Loud* invites the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word, and theater into the classroom.

The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation partner with State Arts Agencies across the United States to support Poetry Out Loud, a program that

encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance. This program helps students to master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

After successful pilot programs in Washington, DC, and Chicago, Poetry Out Loud was launched as a nationwide program during the 2005-2006 school year. Here in Washington State, we've grown from just eight participating high schools that first year, to 28 participating schools in the 2020-2021 school year.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has meant that this year's competition has been held virtually at the regional and state level, with students submitting video recitations of poems selected from an anthology of more than 1,100 classic and contemporary poems.

**Thank you to everyone who has tuned in to enjoy this year's broadcast of poetry and to support our regional champions. Enjoy!**

## About ArtsWA



[arts.wa.gov](http://arts.wa.gov)

The Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA) is a state agency, established in 1961, whose purpose is to conserve and develop the State's artistic resources, as essential to the social, educational, and economic growth of the State of Washington. One of our strategic goals is to strengthen K-12 arts education as part of, and fundamental to, basic education. For more information: [www.arts.wa.gov](http://www.arts.wa.gov).

The Washington State Arts Commission is committed to values of inclusion, diversity, equity, and creative expression.

We believe in diverse forms of artistic expression, and we believe in access to arts and arts education for all individuals in our state. The arts can and should play a role in addressing inequities, modeling inclusion, and teaching empathy.

# Washington State Regional Champions

## **Leki Alright**

Liberty Bell High School, Okanogan County

## **Clio Erignac**

International Community School, King County

## **Jenna Elsammak**

Kamiakin High School, Benton County

## **Hillary Curd**

Mount Si High School, King County

## **Jonah Reider**

Mead High School, Spokane County

## **Ashlee Robinson**

Naches Valley High School, Yakima County

## **Lucy Shainin**

Anacortes High School, Skagit County

## **Cooper Siems**

Concordia Christian Academy, Pierce County

## **Micah Stewart**

Cedar Tree Classical Christian School, Clark County

## **Bethany Tucharth**

Battle Ground High School, Clark County

# Washington State Final Program



2019-20 Poetry Out Loud State Champion, Jordan Mattox. Photo by Pavel Verbovski.

## Welcome and Introductions

Program Host: Bitaniya Giday

Introductions and Program Information

ArtsWA Arts in Education Manager: Tamar Krames

Presentation of the Washington State Regional Champions

## Recitations - Round One

All Students recite their first poem

## Recitations - Round Two

All Students recite their second poem

Washington State Poet Laureate: Claudia Castro Luna

Announcement of Five Finalists

## Recitations - Round Three

Five Finalists recite their third poem

## Announcements and Acknowledgments

ArtsWA Executive Director: Karen Hanan

Announcement of the 2021 Washington State Champion

## Student Poem Selections

Student recitations are conducted in alphabetical order, by last name. For the first round of recitations, we go A-Z. In the second round, we start at the center of the alphabet and go to Z, followed by A-R. The five finalists who advance to the third round are presented in a randomly chosen order. All poems were selected from the Poetry Out Loud anthology, available at [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org).

### Leki Alright

(First Recitation in Round One)

[\*Fairytale with Laryngitis and Resignation Letter\*](#) by [Jehanne Dubrow](#)

[\*Slant\*](#) by [Suji Kwock Kim](#)

[\*Dover Beach\*](#) by [Matthew Arnold](#)

### Clio Erignac

[\*Ways of Talking\*](#) by [Ha Jin](#)\*\*

[\*Meditation on a Grapefruit\*](#) by [Craig Arnold](#)

[\*Dirge in Woods\*](#) by [George Meredith](#)

### Jenna Elsammak

[\*Moon\*](#) by [Kathleen Jamie](#)

[\*The Listeners\*](#) by [Walter de La Mare](#)

[\*'Hope' is a thing with feathers\*](#) - (314) by [Emily Dickinson](#)\*\*

### Hillary Curd

[\*The Arrow and the Song\*](#) by [Henry Wadsworth Longfellow](#)

[\*Siren Song\*](#) by [Margaret Atwood](#)

[\*The Properly Scholarly Attitude\*](#) by [Adelaide Crapsey](#)

### Jonah Reider

[\*April Midnight\*](#) by [Arthur Symons](#)

[\*Songs for the People\*](#) by [Frances Watkins Harper](#)

[\*Self-Inquiry before the Job Interview\*](#) by [Gary Soto](#)

## Ashlee Robinson

(First Recitation in Round Two)

[Revenge](#) by [Letitia Elizabeth Landon](#)

[It Is Not](#) by [Valerie Martinez](#)

[Now I Pray](#) by [Kathy Engel](#)

## Lucy Shainin

[Fairytale with Laryngitis and Resignation Letter](#) by [Jehanne Dubrow](#)

[American Solitude](#) by [Grace Schulman](#)\*\*

['Hope' is a thing with feathers](#) - (314) by [Emily Dickinson](#)\*\*

## Cooper Siems

[Cartoon Physics, part 1](#) by [Nick Flynn](#)

[I am the People, the Mob](#) by [Carl Sandburg](#)

[I Remember, I Remember](#) by [Thomas Hood](#)

## Micah Stewart

[A Fit of Rhyme Against Rhyme](#) by [Ben Jonson](#)

[The Salutation](#)" by [Thomas Traherne](#)

[Acquainted with the Night](#) by [Robert Frost](#)\*\*

## Bethany Tucharadt

[Don't Let Me Be Lonely: 'At the airport-security checkpoint...'](#)  
by [Claudia Rankine](#)

[At Noon](#) by [Reginald Gibbons](#)

[When You Are Old](#) by [William Butler Yeats](#)

Click on the titles of the poems to be directed to the text of the poem, or the name of the poet to read their biography.

\*\* These poems are not permitted for live broadcast.

# Poetry Out Loud Biographies

## Bitaniya Giday, Host

Bitaniya is the Seattle Youth Poet Laureate for 2020-21, a program sponsored by [Seattle Arts & Lectures](#). She is a first-generation Ethiopian American residing in Seattle. Her writing explores the nuances of womanhood and blackness, as she reflects upon her family's path of immigration across the world. She hopes to restore and safeguard the past, present, and future histories of her people through traditional storytelling and poetry. She attends Newport High School in Bellevue.

## Ginger Ewing, Judge

Located in Spokane WA, Ginger Ewing is the Executive Director of [Terrain](#), an arts nonprofit that builds community and economic opportunity for the artists, makers, and culture creators of the Inland Northwest. In addition to putting on large-scale annual events, Terrain also runs a permanent gallery space, a performing arts space, a retail storefront, an arts-driven beautification program, and a professional development program for creative entrepreneurs.

Ginger sits on four statewide boards ([Keep Music Live](#), [Artist Trust](#), [Whipsmart](#), and the Washington State Arts Commission) as well as the Advisory Committee for [All in Washington](#). She also loves dogs, especially pugs.

## Janet Cole Hamilton, Judge

Janet is the Education and Outreach Manager for [Village Theatre KIDSTAGE](#) in Issaquah. She developed her own, "Skills for Theatre... Skills for Life" through acting, directing, forming a theatre company, serving on boards for arts organizations, and time in corporate America working with freelance artists, graphic designers, and game designers.

In her 15 years with KIDSTAGE, Janet has served in a variety of roles and at different points has managed classes, camps,



productions, and the Institute and Pathway training programs. She oversaw the transition to online learning over the past year, establishing best practices and mentoring instructors to serve over 2,000 students virtually. Soon KIDSTAGE will allow Janet to pursue her lifelong passion for arts integration as she develops the emerging STEM and school outreach programs. Personal motto: Duck for Luck.

### **Claudia Castro Luna, Judge**

Claudia Castro Luna is [Washington State Poet Laureate](#) (2018-2021). She served as Seattle's Civic Poet from 2015-2017, and is the author of the Pushcart nominated *Killing Mariás* (Two Sylvias Press), also shortlisted for WA State 2018 Book Award in poetry, and *This City*, (Floating Bridge Press). She is also the creator of the acclaimed [Seattle Poetic Grid](#). Castro Luna is the recipient numerous grants and awards, which can be read in greater detail on her website: [castroluna.com](http://castroluna.com).

Her poems have been featured in PBS Newshour, KQED San Francisco, KUOW Seattle and have appeared in Poetry Northwest, *La Bloga*, Dialogo and *Psychological Perspectives* among others. Her non-fiction work can be read in several anthologies, among them *This Is The Place: Women Writing About Home*, (Seal Press) Claudia is currently working on a memoir, *Like Water to Drink*, about her experience escaping the civil war in El Salvador. Living in English and Spanish, she writes and teaches in Seattle where she gardens and keeps chickens with her husband and their three children.

### **Lucas Smiraldo, Judge**

Lucas Smiraldo is a long-time fan and past host of Poetry Out Loud events who loves the way students learn to inhabit the poems they recite. He is a poet, collaborative artist and was once a rostered teaching artist for ArtsWA.

Lucas loves the potency of collaborations and savors partnerships with musicians, visual artists and voice artists. He is currently in the

process of bringing his illustrated book *365 Revolutions* to publication along with an associated audio version featuring a diverse cast of voices.

## **The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra, Music**

[The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra](#) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing high quality performances and music education to communities around the globe. Through concerts, workshops, composing, recording, and cultural exchanges The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra brings people together through the broad scope of music and the jazz art form.

## **Special thanks to the Washington's 2020-21 *Poetry Out Loud* Leadership and Regional Partners:**

### **Central Washington**

Yakima Valley College: Mark Fuzie, Melanie Cole, and Jeff Gerhardstein, Coordinators

### **Eastern Washington**

Spokane Arts: Melissa Huggins & Melissa Dziedzic, Coordinators

### **Northwest Washington**

The Skagit River Poetry Foundation: Molly McNulty, Coordinator

### **Southwest Washington**

Educational Service District 112: Nicholas Shanmac, Allison Klump, and Heidi Barnes, Coordinators

## **Poetry Out Loud 2021 Teacher Liaisons**

Dori Whitford, Mead High School, Spokane – East Washington

Amy Solo, North Thurston High School, Lacey – West Washington

**Many thanks to the teachers who coordinated *Poetry Out Loud* at their school this year:**

### **Central**

Ellensburg High School, Lorraine Barlow; Naches Valley High School, Ali Bernard; Delta High School, Kelly Hamby; Kamiakin High School, Joyce Donais; Richland High School, Jason Allen; Selah High School, Jon McClintick.

### **Eastern**

Lakeside High School, Alecia Sing; Liberty Bell High School, Kelly Grayum; Okanogan High School, Dennis O'Connor; Mead High School, Dori Whitford, The Oaks Classical Christian Academy, Emily Woodrooff.

### **Northwest**

Anacortes High School, Brian Backman; Crosspoint Academy, Lauren Healy; International Community School, Lauren Jackson; Mercer Island High School, Jane Stafford; Mount Si High School, Daniel Mancoff; Quilcene High School, Camille Hildebrandt; Raisbeck Aviation High School, Wayne Storer; Sequim High School, Sean O'Mera.

### **Southwest**

Battle Ground High School, Heather Smithline; Camas High School, Sam Greene; Cedar Tree Classical Christian School, David King; Concordia Christian Academy, Nikki Shannon; North Thurston High School, Amy Solo; River Ridge High School, Angelina Downs; Stadium High School, Liz Jacobsen; Trout Lake School, Ellen Simonis.



*2018-19 Poetry Out Loud State Finalist, Anneka Siems. Photo by Pavel Verbovski.*

# Production Credits

## Host

Bitaniya Giday

## Judges

Ginger Ewing, Janet Cole Hamilton, Claudia Castro Luna, Lucas Smiraldo

## Music

[The Kareem Kandi World Orchestra](#): Kareem Kandi, Saxophone;  
Greg Feingold, Bass

## Featured Artwork

Frank Samuelson, *River, Mountain, Forest* (2018)

This artwork is a part of Washington's State Art Collection and is located at Silverdale Elementary School in the Central Kitsap School District.

Explore the State's Public Art Collection: over 5,000 individual works online at [My Public Art Portal](#).

## Video and Broadcast Production

### [#SeattleLives](#)

Josh Wells, Editor

Ari Lindholm, Lead Audio

Marcus Day, Support Audio

Ryan Dunn, Lighting Designer

Frances Baker, Camera Operator

Cameron Sullivan, Camera Operator

Gabe Airth, Teleprompting

Pavel Verbovski, Photographer & Sales

## Washington State Arts Commission Staff

Karen Hanan, Executive Director

Tamar Krames, Arts in Education Program Manager

Glenda Carino, Communication Manager

Annette Roth, Program Manager Creative Districts

Judy Cullen, *Poetry Out Loud* State Coordinator

Audrey Molloy, Program Assistant, Arts in Education

The *Poetry Out Loud* Washington State Final is presented by the [Washington State Arts Commission](#), with support from the following partners:

## National Endowment for the Arts



[The National Endowment for the Arts](#) was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$5 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. <https://www.arts.gov/The NEA> extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

## Poetry Foundation



[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.

## For More Information:

The National *Poetry Out Loud* Program: [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)

Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA): [www.arts.wa.gov](http://www.arts.wa.gov)

Primary contact for *Poetry Out Loud* in Washington State: Tamar Krames, [tamar.krames@arts.wa.gov](mailto:tamar.krames@arts.wa.gov)