

# POETRY

# OUT LOUD

NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

# 2012 Arizona *Recitation* State Finals

PHOENIX  
CENTER FOR  
THE ARTS  
PHOENIX  
ARIZONA

MARCH 29, 2012



Arizona  
Commission  
on the Arts



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POETRY



FOUNDATION

# Letter from the Executive Director

Welcome to the **Seventh Annual Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals**. Tonight's event is the culmination of months of participation by high school students and teachers all across the state of Arizona. Over 13,000 high school students and 46 schools participated in the program this year. Those of you here to witness tonight's recitations are in for a rare treat.

Many of you here already know what we are about to experience. Witnessing these students recite poems of their choosing is quite amazing. Through the commitment and dedication of teachers across our state, students who participate in Poetry Out Loud build public speaking skills, and learn about their literary heritage.



Pictured: 2011 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finalists representing Arizona high schools at the State Finals competition. Photo Credit: Joe Jankovsky.

To the students who are here today to compete: Congratulations on your accomplishment. What you have achieved in representing your schools and your regions at the state finals is no small feat.

To the teachers and parents who accompanied the students today: Thank you. Thank you for your commitment to instilling skills in our students that will stay with them beyond this program and beyond today; skills that will help them be competitive in a 21st century workforce.

To our partners who make the program possible: Your dedication to serving your community and the Arizona arts industry is remarkable. Thank you for the opportunity you've provided these students.

To the audience: Poetry Out Loud is one of the many arts programs in our state that delivers the benefits of arts education to our young people. Through these programs, students often improve their academic performance, demonstrate greater leadership and social skills, and develop advanced creative problem solving. We invite you to learn more about how you can support and protect the arts for future generations of Arizonans at [www.thechoiceisart.org](http://www.thechoiceisart.org).

Finally, it is with great gratitude that we thank the Phoenix Center for the Arts for working with us this year to provide a wonderful performing space in their theatre.

*Robert C. Booker, Executive Director  
Arizona Commission on the Arts*

# **Recitation Schedule**

## **Welcome to the Seventh Annual Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals**

**Thursday, March 29, 2012**

**7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Phoenix Center for the Arts**

**1202 North Third Street**

**Phoenix, Arizona 85004**

### **Welcome**

**Patrick Fanning, Special Projects & Arts Learning Coordinator**

**Robert C. Booker, Executive Director**

**Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch**

### **First Round**

### **Break**

### **Second Round**

### **Guest Reading**

### **Announcement of Four Finalists**

### **Final Round**

### **Pause**

### **Announcement of State Champion and Runner-Up**

# Introduction

**Poetry Out Loud** is a national poetry recitation contest for high school students that begins in the classroom and culminates with the Poetry Out Loud National Finals in Washington D.C. By inviting the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theatre into the English class, Poetry Out Loud encourages the nation's youth to learn about great poetry by studying, memorizing and performing some of the most influential and timeless poems of the English language. Through Poetry Out Loud, students can master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

A program of the **National Endowment for the Arts** and **The Poetry Foundation**, Poetry Out Loud is delivered in all 50 states and three territories through partnerships with the State Arts Agencies. The Arizona Poetry Out Loud program is managed and supported by the Arizona Commission on the Arts.

This evening's event, the **2012 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals**, is hosted by the Phoenix Center for the Arts and proudly presented by the Arizona Commission on the Arts, in partnership with Arizona State University's Young Writers Program and the University of Arizona Poetry Center.

Participation in Arizona Poetry Out Loud continues to grow with over 13,000 students and 160 teachers from across the state participating in the program this year. We congratulate all participating teachers and students on a successful year of Poetry Out Loud in their classrooms and at their schools!

This year, 44 student finalists represented their high schools at three regional competitions: Central, Northern and Southern. Three finalists were selected at each regional competition and these nine students will be competing this evening for the title of **Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion**. The winner of the 2012 Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Finals will receive \$200 and the winner's school library will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The second place finalist will receive \$100, with \$200 for his or her school library.

In addition, the Arizona Poetry Out Loud State Champion will receive an all-expenses-paid trip (with a chaperone) to compete at the National Finals in Washington D.C., May 13-15, 2012. 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 Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

For more information on Poetry Out Loud, visit [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org) or [www.azarts.gov/pol](http://www.azarts.gov/pol).

# Contest Structure and Evaluation Criteria

2012 Arizona Poetry Out Loud includes three levels of competition: School Finals, Regional Competitions and the State Finals.

## School Finals

Each participating high school held a school contest at the end of their Poetry Out Loud unit or program. The top scoring students from each school final advanced to their region's competition.

## Regional Competitions

A total of 44 students competed at three regional competitions; central, northern and southern. At each regional competition, students recited two poems; the scores of these poems were tallied and the three students with the highest scores advanced to the state finals.

## State Finals

Nine students—three from each region—will perform recitations in tonight's event. Each student will recite two poems, one in each of the first two rounds. The scores of these two recitations will be tallied and the four students with the highest scores will recite a third poem in a final round of recitations. The score of the third poem will be added to each of the students' first set of scores. The highest scoring student will be named the Arizona State Champion; the second highest scoring student, the First Place Runner-up.

Scoring in Poetry Out Loud is cumulative between judges' scores and from round to round, however scores from previous competitions do not carry over to subsequent contests.

Each student will be evaluated on a scale from one (very weak) to six (outstanding) using the following criteria:

**Physical Presence**

**Voice and Articulation**

**Dramatic Appropriateness**

**Level of Difficulty**

**Evidence of Understanding**

**Overall Performance**

Additionally, a maximum of eight points will be assigned for accuracy.

For your reference, you will find a sample Contest Evaluation Sheet on the next page. We hope you enjoy the recitations!

# Poetry Out Loud Contest Evaluation Sheet

## Contest Evaluation Sheet

NAME OF STUDENT:

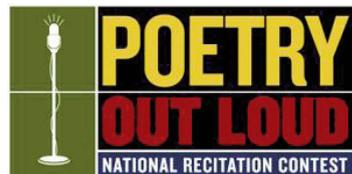
TITLE OF POEM:

	Very Weak	Weak	Average	Good	Excellent	Outstanding
Physical Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6
Voice and Articulation	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dramatic Appropriateness	1	2	3	4	5	6
Level of Difficulty	1	2	3	4	5	6
Evidence of Understanding	1	2	3	4	5	6
Overall Performance	1	2	3	5	7	9

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ (maximum of 39 points)

ACCURACY JUDGE'S SCORE: \_\_\_\_\_ (maximum of 8 points)

**FINAL SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(MAXIMUM OF 47 POINTS)**



# Special Guests

## Emcee: Rebecca White Berch, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Arizona



**Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch** was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 2002 and became its 23rd Chief Justice in 2009. Before her appointment to the Supreme Court, she served the state as Solicitor General of the State of Arizona, Special Counsel to the Attorney General, First Assistant Attorney General and as a Court of Appeals Judge.

Following graduation from law school, Chief Justice Berch practiced law in Phoenix. In 1986, she joined the faculty at Arizona State University's College of Law. In addition to her J.D. degree, she holds a Master's degree in English. She has authored several law review articles and magazine articles, two books and two chapters for books. The law school textbook she co-authored, *INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL METHOD AND PROCESS*, is now in its fifth edition and is used in law schools throughout the nation.

An active participant in the legal and social communities, Chief Justice Berch serves on the United States Conference of Chief Justices, the Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners and the Board of Advisors for the Green Bag Almanac and Reader, among other boards, committees and commissions. Chief Justice Berch has remained active in legal education, having served as Dean of the Arizona Judicial College, as a member of the Committee on Judicial Education and Training and on the Supreme Court's Bar Examinations Committee. She maintains several other public service positions and speaks regularly on law-related topics to students, civic groups and legal organizations.

A strong proponent of pro bono work, Chief Justice Berch participates in and strongly encourages all lawyers to engage in volunteer work. The Pro Bono Suite at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law is named in her honor.

## Guest Reader and Judge: Charles Jensen



**Charles Jensen** is the author of *The Nanopedia Quick-Reference Pocket Lexicon of Contemporary American Culture* (2012 MiPOESIAS Chapbook Series) and *The First Risk*, which was published in 2009 by Lethe Press and was a finalist for the 2010 Lambda Literary Award. His previous chapbooks include *Living Things*, which won the 2006 Frank O'Hara Chapbook Award, and *The Strange Case of Maribel Dixon* (New Michigan Press, 2007).

A past recipient of an Artist Project Grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, Mr. Jensen's poetry has appeared in *Bloom*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Copper Nickel*, *Field*, *The Journal*, *New England Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. He holds an MFA in poetry from Arizona State University, where he also did graduate work in nonprofit leadership and management. He is the founding editor of the online poetry magazine *LOCUSPOINT*, which explores creative work on a city-by-city basis, and is active in the national arts community by serving on the Emerging Leader Council of Americans for the Arts.

# Judges



**Dr. Robert Breunig** became Director of the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff in 2003. Previously, he served as Executive Director of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and served as Museum Educator, Curator and Head of the Department of Anthropology at the Museum of Northern Arizona. Dr. Breunig has also served as Chief Curator and Deputy Director at the Heard Museum, as Executive Director of the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, and Executive Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History in California.



**Jaime Dempsey** joined the Arizona Commission on the Arts as Deputy Director in 2006. Previously, she developed community programs and partnerships for the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University; managed arts education programs for nexStage theatre; and coordinated programs for the Sun Valley Center for the Arts in Sun Valley, Idaho. She has taught semester-long courses in Arts Leadership and Nonprofit Arts Management for Arizona State University. Ms. Dempsey studied theatre and anthropology at ASU and grew up in Peoria, Arizona.



**Carole FitzPatrick** is Assistant Professor of Voice at Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts. Her extensive opera repertoire includes over 60 major roles in German opera houses and concert tours throughout Europe. Ms. FitzPatrick was a vocal advisor for the Nürnberg State Theater's Opera Studio for Young Singers and has participated in the premiere performance of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in Beijing and sang "Donna Anna" in *Don Giovanni* in Hong Kong. She has degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and Yale University's School of Music.



**David Mittel** has been teaching English at Kyrene Middle School in Tempe for over 20 years. He has also been an instructor and curriculum advisor at the Exploration Summer Program at Wellesley College. In addition to teaching, he has acted and directed with the Boston Children's Theater; founded Kyrene Middle School's after school drama program, where he has directed over 30 main-stage productions; is a guest director at Desert Vista High School; and has staged several productions with the Ahwatukee Children's Theater.



**Kelly Nelson's** poetry has appeared in *Blue Guitar*, *Blood Lotus*, *Convergence*, *Eclectica* and *Furnace Review*. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize and has won awards from the Arizona State Poetry Society, the Arizona Authors Association and the Society of Southwestern Authors. She teaches Interdisciplinary Studies at Arizona State University, serves on the Tempe Municipal Arts Commission and volunteers as a docent at the Tempe Center for the Arts.

# Student Finalists



**John DeMino**  
**Brophy College Preparatory, Phoenix**

*"It Couldn't Be Done" by Edgar Albert Guest*  
*"Ego" by Denise Duhamel*

John is a senior at Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, Arizona. He spends a lot of time performing in plays inside and outside of school. He loves to act and wishes to acquire a BFA in acting and pursue a career in the industry.



**Travis Marino**  
**Freedom Christian Academy, Queen Creek**

*"Self-Inquiry Before the Job Interview" by Gary Soto*  
*"The Oldest Living Thing in L.A." by Larry Levis*

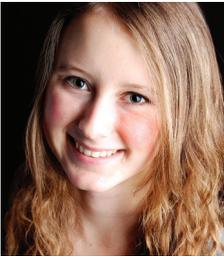
Travis Marino is a 17-year-old junior at Freedom Christian Academy. This is his second time as a finalist in the Arizona Poetry Out Loud competition. He is a prolific poet, publishing several poems portraying his passion.



**Rebecca Andersen**  
**Kingman High School, Kingman**

*"The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" by Sir Walter Raleigh*  
*"I am the People, the Mob" by Carl Sandburg*

As an aspiring novelist, poetry means a great deal to Rebecca. Not only does her love for Emily Dickinson possess deep roots into her childhood, but her beliefs match those of Carl Sandburg and her views of love parallel Sir Walter Raleigh. She plans on studying forensic psychology and creative writing in college.



**Sophia Licher**  
**Sedona Red Rock High School, Sedona**

*"The Albatross" by Kate Bass*  
*"The Children's Hour" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Sophia, a sophomore, is a member of the swim team, Key Club and Photo Club. She takes private singing lessons and enjoys art, writing, music, reading, photography, hiking, archery, swimming, traveling, animals, friends, family and, last but not least, eating. She would like to study marine biology or veterinary medicine.



**Mark Anthony Niadas**  
**St. Augustine Catholic High School, Tucson**

*"The Meaning of the Shovel" by Martin Espada*  
*"I am" by John Clare*

Mark is passionate about acting and has performed in several productions at St. Augustine. When not busy acting, he is working to improve his performance on the track team or spending time with friends. Mark, a member of the Campus Ministry, hopes to attend UNLV, Maryland State or Abilene Christian to study either business or psychology.

# Student Finalists



**Cassandra Valadez**  
**Sunnyside High School, Tucson**

*"The End of Science Fiction" by Lisel Mueller*  
*"The Destruction of Sennacherib" by Lord Byron (George Gordon)*  
Cassandra is a leader with a passion to help others. She is a member of the National Honor Society, AVID, MESA and DECA. "I have a solid belief that through the uneven patches of my life I have picked up some of the most valuable lessons, and through the accomplishments in my life I have learned to be appreciative."



**Adriana Hurtado**  
**Tri-City College Preparatory, Prescott**

*"Bilingual/Bilingue" by Rhina P. Espillat*  
*"Invictus" by William Ernest Henley*  
Adriana is a freshman at Tri-City Preparatory High School. She is active in creative writing and is a member of the softball team.



**Joshua Furtado**  
**Tucson High Magnet School, Tucson**

*"Catch a Little Rhyme" by Eve Merriam*  
*"Annabel Lee" by Edgar Allan Poe*  
Joshua is a senior and is ecstatic about performing! He would like to thank his parents for their unconditional support, as well as his wonderful English teachers, Merle McPheeters and Kurt Garbe. Joshua is an actor hoping to pursue a career in film and is planning on making the move to L.A.



**India Parsons**  
**Westview High School, Avondale**

*"The Collar" by George Herbert*  
*"Ozymandias" by Percy Bysshe Shelley*  
India is a senior at Westview High School with a passion for English and the swim team. She devotes hours every day to the exercise of her mind and body, so that she can excel in both arenas.

# Thank You

The **Arizona Commission on the Arts** would like to thank the following 2011-2012 Arizona Poetry Out Loud partners and sponsors.

## **Central Region Partner**

**Arizona State University's Young Writers Program** (YWP) provides the k-12 community with arts-based, standard-aligned creative writing opportunities through mutually beneficial partnerships. The Young Writers Program utilizes a variety of arts-based strategies designed to create early positive arts experience that increase chances for student achievement.

## **Southern Region Partner**

The **University of Arizona Poetry Center** in Tucson is a living archive, founded in 1960, to maintain and cherish the spirit of poetry. The Poetry Center promotes poetic literacy and sustains, enriches and advances a diverse literary culture. An internationally renowned poetry library, the Poetry Center sponsors numerous programs, including readings and lectures, classes and workshops, writing residencies, discussion groups, contests, exhibitions, K-12 educational resources, field trips and online curricula.

## **State Finals Host**

**The Phoenix Center for the Arts** offers the finest in visual and performing arts for all ages. The Center is a unique, historic facility found in the heart of Phoenix, dedicated to making arts education a truly unique and enjoyable experience. Their mission is to provide the community with opportunities to participate in the visual and performing arts through creative and affordable quality programming. Within their programs and class offerings you will find some of the finest instructors, artists, staff and quality arts programming from various visual arts medium such as ceramics, glass art, metals and jewelry, painting and drawing as well as a wide range of performing arts opportunities through music, dance, voice and theater.

## **National Sponsors**

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. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities and military bases.

**The Poetry Foundation**, publisher of *Poetry* magazine and one of the largest literary organizations in the world, exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs.



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