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Luminerva String Trio was started in 2011 when its members realized how much fun non-classical music can be when played on classical string instruments. Luminerva’s preferred genres have grown to include styles from pop to metal, folk to soundtrack, and everything in between.

Samuel Jake was born and raised in Sandy. He is Native American from the Navajo tribe and runs a photography and production company. His art focuses mostly on landscape, action, and cultural photographs. He loves the outdoors and connecting with nature and doing fun activities.

Willy Palomo is the son of two immigrants from El Salvador. In 2017, he received the City of Bloomington Latino Leadership Award and the MLK Building Bridges Graduate Student Award for his work serving undocumented communities in Indiana. He has taught literature, creative writing, and the poetics of rap in universities, juvenile detention centers, community centers, and high schools. He has performed his poetry nationally and internationally.

Jerry Rapier is in his 21st season as artistic director of Plan-B Theatre, the only professional theatre in the United States producing full seasons of new works by local playwrights. He has directed more than 40 Plan-B productions, including several that have had extended lives in New York. In addition to his work with Plan-B, he has worked on new plays at Utah Shakespeare Festival, Salt Lake Acting Company, and Pioneer Theatre Company. Jerry received Salt Lake City’s Mayor’s Artist Award in the Performing Arts.

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Tacey M. Atsitty, Diné, is Tséñahabiníí (Sleep Rock People) and born for Ta’neeszháníí (Tangle People). She is a recipient of the Truman Capote Creative Writing Fellowship, the Corson-Browning Poetry Prize, Morning Star Creative Writing Award, and the Philip Freund Prize. She holds bachelor’s degrees from Brigham Young University and the Institute of American Indian Arts, and an MFA in Creative Writing from Cornell University. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in POETRY Magazine, Kenyon Review Online, Prairie Schooner, Crazy Horse, Literary Hub, New Poets of Native Nations, and other publications.

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Utah Final

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SCHEDULE

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION: Victoria Panella Bourns
Director
Utah Arts & Museums

HOST REMARKS: Amir A.H. Jackson
Founder/Director
Nurture the Creative Mind

SLAM POET: Claire De'Lune Battenman
Lamentation of Lemonade

ROUND ONE: Contestants recite first poem
ROUND TWO: Contestants recite second poem
ROUND THREE: Contestants recite third poem
PRESENTATION OF AWARDS: Amir Jackson
Jill Remington Love
Victoria Panella Bourns

CONTESTANTS & POEMS

SAVANNAH TURNBOW — Springville High School
“A Barred Owl” by Richard Wilbur

AEVA DYE — Dixie High School
“Hanging Fire” by Audre Lorde

ARAXAN OLIVARES — Judge Memorial Catholic High School
“Spanglish” by Tato Laviera

SHAN ROBINSON — Box Elder High School
“The Coming Woman” by Mary Weston Fordham

JACKSON SHEMWELL — Juan Diego Catholic School
“Self-Portrait as So Much Potential” by Chen Chen

SAVANNAH TURNBOW — Springville High School
“Another Antipastoral” by Vievee Francis

AEVA DYE — Dixie High School
“Summer” by Chen Chen

ARAXAN OLIVARES — Judge Memorial Catholic High School
“The Bloody Sire” by Robinson Jeffers

SHAN ROBINSON — Box Elder High School
“kitchenette building” by Gwendolyn Brooks

JACKSON SHEMWELL — Juan Diego Catholic School
“Where the Wild Things Go” by D. Gilson

TONIGHT’S JUDGES

MIKE DORRELL is originally from Swansea, Wales, and has lived in Utah for many years. He is the author of over a dozen produced plays for stage, radio, and television. He was dramaturg for Salt Lake Acting Company for ten years, developing new work by Julie Jensen, David Kranes, Jeff Metcalf, and others. He is currently responsible for new play development with Utah Contemporary Theatre, which has produced four of his Talking Wales series of monologues.

CHELSEA POTUPCHIK GUEVARA is a poet and spoken word artist from West Jordan. As a Salvadoran-Caucasian American, her work focuses on examination of overlapping cultures, mixed identity, and Latinx and immigrant struggles. She has performed at multiple venues across the Salt Lake Valley, captaining the State Champion 2019 Copper Hills Poetry Slam Team in her senior year of high school and also taking individual honors at both the Utah Arts Festival, where she was crowned Youth Indie Slam Champion, and Sugar Slam.

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