

# TONIGHT’S JUDGES

**MELISSA BOND** is a narrative journalist, poet and matriarch to Salt Lake City’s Slam Scene after starting it at the Lazy Moon Pub in 1996. Melissa has been featured on PBS Story in the Public Square, Radio West, the podcasts Risk!, Endeavors, Psychology Unplugged and Mom’s Don’t Have Time to Read Books. The Salt Lake Tribune and the New York Post have both done features on Bond’s book Blood Orange Night, her memoir about becoming dependent upon and then withdrawing from benzodiazepines. Blood Orange Night was published by Simon & Schuster and was chosen by the NY Times as one of the best audiobooks of 2022. Learn more at [MelissaABond.com](#)

**DENNIS HASSAN** is a Professor in the Theatre Department at Utah State University. He has worked on more than 200 productions for theaters from Hawaii to Maine and is a former Artistic Director for the Old Lyric Repertory Company. This is Dennis’ fourth time judging Utah’s Poetry Out Loud event, and he has coached national participants.

**GUY LEBEDA** served as the literature coordinator for both the Wyoming Arts Council and the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. His work has appeared in publications such as the University of Wyoming’s Alumnews magazine, Laramie Daily Boomerang, Valley Horse Journal, Crossroads Anthology, Salt Lake City Magazine, and Land That We Love: Americans Talk About America’s Public Lands.

**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.

**DARRYL STAMP** is a retired high school Language Arts teacher, and an actor, writer, and former standup comedian. Since retirement he has been a member of Plan-B Theatre’s Classroom arts education program. He recently performed in Mother, Mother (Pygmalion Theatre (2022)), and his play, Go Home Come Back received a world-premiere production at Plan-B Theatre in February 2023.

# THANK YOU



# WE ARE GRATEFUL TO

**DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STAFF** Jill Remington Love (Executive Director), Kat Potter (Administrator) Ellen Weist (Public Information Officer) Sarina Ehrgott (Marketing Director), Kevin Edwards (Graphic Designer).

**UTAH ARTS & MUSEUM STAFF** - Laurel Cannon Alder, Elisha Buhler Condie, Victoria Panella Bourns, Jason Bowcutt, Em Cebrowski, Alyssa Hickman Grove, Tory Guilfoyle, Tracy Hansford, Jean Tokuda Irwin, Justin Ivie, Emilie Starr, Racquel Cornali.

**JILL REMINGTON LOVE** serves as the executive director of the Utah Department of Cultural and Community Engagement. She previously served 12 years as a Salt Lake City Council Member and worked as Deputy Chief of Staff under Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker.

**VICTORIA PANELLA BOURNS** is the director of the Utah Division of Arts & Museums. Under her leadership, the agency has distributed approximately \$19.5M in CARES Act funding from the State of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts. Vicki has also guided an increase in the agency’s grants budget of 467%. She is on the State of Utah Executive Residence Commission and the Salt Lake County ZAP Tier I Advisory Board.

**AMIR JACKSON** is a military veteran, community organizer, activist, and the founder and director of Nurture the Creative Mind. Through his work with Nurture the Creative Mind, Amir has positively impacted more than 25,000 young people and has received more than 26 awards. Amir is a TEDx fellow, co-founder of the NAACP WSU Chapter, and a current board member of the Weber State University Alumni Board, WESTAF, and the ACLU.

**THE MEADOWLARK STRING BAND** is a spunky duo, featuring Melissa Chilinski and Roz Newmark. Bringing their collective experiences as performers and life enthusiasts, they offer toe tapping and heart warming melodies for an audience of all ages. Melissa has been impressing listeners with her abilities on guitar, banjo, and vocals for over a decade. Roz has been breaking the fun meter, fiddling and singing for longer than she wants to admit.

**POL COACHES** - Jerry Rapier & Alyssa Hickman Grove  
**VIDEOGRAPHER** - Maria Villaseñor and Phase II students, Spy Hop  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** - Samuel Jake Photography  
**TECHNICAL DIRECTOR** - David Evanoff Sound Design

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT  
POETRY RECITATION COMPETITION

7 PM | MAR 8, 2023  
JONES RECITAL HALL,  
WESTMINSTER COLLEGE



# UTAH FINAL





# SCHEDULE

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

**HOST REMARKS:**                      **Amir Jackson**  
Founder/Director, Nurture the Creative Mind

**READING:**                              **Melissa Bond**  
Poet, POL Judge

**ROUND ONE:**                      Contestants recite their first poem

**ROUND TWO:**                      Contestants recite their second poem

**READING:**                      **Kellen Hunnicutt**, West High School  
Original Poem Winner

**READING:**                      **Brynn Patterson**, Viewmont High School  
Original Poem Runner Up

**ROUND THREE:**                      Contestants recite their third poem

**AWARD PRESENTATION:**                      **Amir Jackson**  
   **Jill Remington Love**  
   **Victoria Panella Bourns**

# CONTESTANTS & POEMS

ROUND 1

**KEILANA TU’ITUPOU** — Salt Lake Center for Science Education  
“Stepping Stones” by Albert Wendt

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

**ALIYA PURCELL** — Bear River High School  
“Requests for Toy Piano” by Tony Hoagland

**ELIZABETH BUTCHER** — Union High School  
“A Poison Tree” by William Blake

**AEVA DYE-DELTORO** — Dixie High School  
“Summer” by Chen Chen

**A. TRUNNELL** — Springville High School  
“Invictus” by William Earnest Henley

**ALEXIS BAILEY** — Monticello High School  
“April Love” by Ernest Dowson

ROUND 2

**A. TRUNNELL** — Springville High School  
“Holy Sonnets: Death, be not proud” by John Donne

**ALEXIS BAILEY** — Monticello High School  
“Fire and Ice” by Robert Frost

**AEVA DYE-DELTORO** — Dixie High School  
“The Only Mexican” by David Tomas Martinez

**ELIZABETH BUTCHER** — Union High School  
“Haiku” by Henri Cole

**ALIYA PURCELL** — Bear River High School  
“April Midnight” by Arthur Symons

**JACKSON SHEMWELL** — Juan Diego Catholic High School  
“We Wear the Mask” by Paul Laurence Dunbar

**KEILANA TU’ITUPOU** — Salt Lake Center for Science Education  
“Songs for the People” by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

ROUND 3

**AEVA DYE-DELTORO** — Dixie High School  
“No, I wasn’t meant to love and be loved” by Mirzah Asadullah Khan Ghalib

**KEILANA TU’ITUPOU** — Salt Lake Center for Science Education  
“Prints” by Joseph Bruchac

**JACKSON SHEMWELL** — Juan Diego Catholic High School  
“Summer” by Chen Chen

**ALIYA PURCELL** — Bear River High School  
“The Properly Scholarly Attitude” by Adelaide Crapsey

**ELIZABETH BUTCHER** — Union High School  
“Sonnet 18: Shall I compare thee to a summer’s Day?” by William Shakespeare

**A. TRUNNELL** — Springville High School  
“I Am the People, the Mob” by Carl Sandburg

**ALEXIS BAILEY** — Monticello High School  
“Sonnets from the Portuguese 43: How do I love thee? Let me count the ways” by Elizabeth Barrett Browning



Araxan Olivares (2022)



Jill Love & Vicki Bourns



Ashlei Havili (2014)



Box Elder (2022)



State Final (2019)



MarKaye Hassan (2012)