

The Last Song, The Last Sweet Bite: A tribute to Joy Harjo

The Last Song, The Last Sweet Bite consists of four spoken tributes - academic, anecdotal, autobiographical - celebrating the person, work, and affect of United States Poet Laureate **Joy Harjo**. This is followed by some discussion, and will be open to a live Q&A and discussion session during broadcast.

A three-term US Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo is a poet, playwright, musician. In her over forty years as a professional writer, Harjo has been honored with the Witter Bynner Poetry Fellowship, a Nammy from the Native American Music Awards, Oklahoma Book Award, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. The Indigenous Aboriginal American Writers Caucus (IAAWC) requests a forum to celebrate Harjo's brilliance, influence, and presence in the field, her career and achievements, the beauty of her work.

Panelists include:

Oscar Hokeah, a regionalist Oklahoma writer, and the author of a debut novel, *Calling for a Blanket Dance*. He is an enrolled member of Cherokee Nation, the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, and he has Latinx heritage. He has fiction published in *American Short Fiction*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, and other journals.

Tanaya Winder, a writer and artist from the Southern Ute, Duckwater Shoshone, & Pyramid Lake Paiute Nations. She has a BA in English from

Stanford University and a MFA from UNM. Tanaya blends storytelling, singing, and spoken word to teach about different expressions of love.

Laura Tohe, Diné. She is Tsénahabíłnii, Sleepy Rock People clan, and born for the Tódich'inii, Bitter Water clan. Her published books include *Making Friends with Water* (chapbook); *No Parole Today*, a book on boarding schools; *Sister Nations: Native American Women Writers on Community*, co-edited with Heid Erdrich; *Tseyí Deep in the Rock*, in collaboration with photographer, Stephen Strom; and *Code Talker Stories*, an oral history book with the remaining Navajo Code Talkers.

Moderator and organizer, **Travis Hedge Coke**, the author of (free online) *Us Living in Fictional Cosmogonies* and *Mutant Thoughts/Examining New X-Men*. They write a weekly column for Comic Watch, *Patricia Highsmash*, and have edited for *Future Earth Magazine* and the *Along the Chaparral* anthology series.

We extend a thanks to a wide base of poetry enthusiasts, including Allison Hedge Coke, Kim Blaeser, and Jennifer Foerster.