

Event Title: Poetry of Iran and Its Diaspora

Event Category: Poetry Reading

Event Description: This poetry reading features four poets and translators of Iran or Iranian descent. They are representatives of an anthology published by Green Linden Press in September, 2021, *Essential Voices: Poetry of Iran and Its Diaspora*, which includes 130 poets and translators from 10 countries. Collectively the readers explore themes of identity, oppression, freedom, language, translation, and the potential for poetry to help us understand and navigate social and political complexity.

Event Organizer: Green Linden Press

Event Moderator: Christopher Nelson is the author of *Blood Aria* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2021) and three chapbooks, including *Blue House*, recipient of a New American Poets Fellowship from the Poetry Society of America. He is the founder and editor of the journal *Under a Warm Green Linden* and Green Linden Press, a nonprofit publisher dedicated to poetic excellence and reforestation. He edited the anthology *Essential Voices: Poetry of Iran and Its Diaspora* (Green Linden Press, 2021), which was named by *Entropy Magazine* as one of the best poetry books of 2020–21. Among his honors are a U.S. Department of Education Jacob K. Javits Fellowship and inclusion in the *Best New Poets* series. For more information visit christophernelson.info.

Event Participants:

Kaveh Bassiri is an Iranian American writer and translator. He is the author of *99 Names of Exile*, winner of the Anzaldúa Poetry Prize, and *Elementary English*, winner of Rick Campbell Chapbook Prize. His poems and translations have appeared in numerous publications, including *Best American Poetry 2020* and *Best New Poets 2020*. He is the recipient of a 2019 translation fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, a 2021 Individual Artist Fellowship from Arkansas Arts Council, and a 2021–2023 Tulsa Artist Fellowship.

Armen Davoudian is the author of *Swan Song*, which won the 2020 Frost Place Chapbook Competition. His poems and translations from Persian appear in *AGNI*, *The Sewanee Review*, *The Yale Review*, and elsewhere. He grew up in Isfahan,

Iran, and lives in California, where he is a Ph.D. candidate in English at Stanford University.

Athena Farrokhzad is a Swedish poet, playwright, critic, translator, and teacher of creative writing who was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1983. Her first book of poetry, *Vitsvit (White Blight)*, has been translated into fifteen languages. She has also published *Trado* and *I rörelse*. She has translated writers such as Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Juliana Spahr, Natalie Diaz, and Jacqueline Woodson to Swedish.

Sholeh Wolpé is an Iranian-born poet, translator, and playwright. She is the author or editor of more than a dozen books, several plays, and an oratorio. She is the recipient of a 2014 PEN Heim Translation Grant, 2013 Midwest Book Award, and 2010 Lois Roth Persian Translation Prize, among others. Her most recent book, *Abacus of Loss: A Memoir in Verse*, is hailed by Ilya Kaminsky as a book “that created its own genre—a thrill of lyric combined with the narrative spell.” Sholeh has lived in Iran, Trinidad, the United Kingdom, and is currently a writer-in-residence at the University of California, Irvine. She lives in Los Angeles and Barcelona.