
Joy Harjo

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Bio & Accomplishments

Joy Harjo was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

She earned her BA from the University of New Mexico and MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

In 2014 she was inducted into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame.

A renowned musician, Harjo performs with her saxophone nationally and internationally, solo and with her band, the Arrow Dynamics. She has five award-winning CDs of music including the award-winning album *Red Dreams, A Trail Beyond Tears and Winding Through the Milky Way*, which won a Native American Music Award for Best Female Artist of the Year in 2009. Harjo's latest is a book of poetry from Norton, *An American Sunrise*.

In 2019, Joy Harjo was appointed the 23rd United States Poet Laureate, the first Native American to hold the position. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Themes

Harjo draws on First Nation storytelling and histories, as well as feminist and social justice poetic traditions, and frequently incorporates indigenous myths, symbols, and values. Her poetry inhabits landscapes—the Southwest, Southeast, but also Alaska and Hawaii—and centers around the need for remembrance and transcendence.

"Joy Harjo." www.poetryfoundation.org, www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/joy-harjo.



U.S. poet laureate Joy Harjo on opening a 'doorway of hope' for indigenous artists



Joy Harjo

PERHAPS THE WORLD ENDS HERE by Joy Harjo



Joy Harjo Reads "Grace"