

POETRY
in VOICE

2026

NATIONAL

FINALS

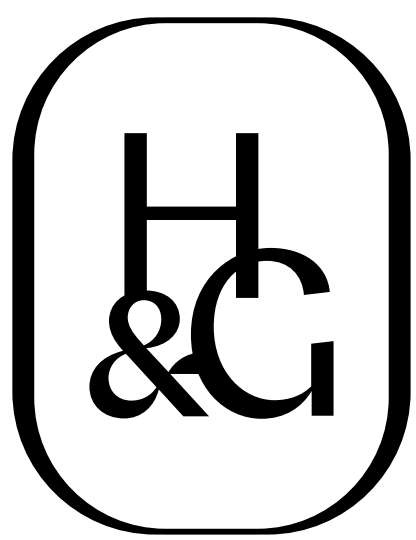
APRIL 28
AT 1:00PM

FIND ALL THE POEMS RECITED
TODAY AND HUNDREDS MORE
AT [POETRYINVOICE.CA](https://poetryinvoice.ca)



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THANK YOU to The Hilary and Galen Weston Foundation, the McCall MacBain Foundation, and the Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry for their respective support of National Finals, FutureVerse, and Poetry in Voice / Les voix de la poésie.



**HILARY &
GALEN WESTON
FOUNDATION**

**mccall
macbain
FOUNDATION**



**GRIFFIN
POETRY
PRIZE**

THE COMPETITION

With Poetry in Voice/Les voix de la poésie, students learn poems by heart and explore the power of language. The National Finals is a celebration of Canada's best reciters. Thank you for joining us for our first National Finals in beautiful Quebec City!

JUDGES

ENGLISH JUDGES:

Sue Goyette, Kaie Kellough, Jónína Kirton

FRENCH JUDGES: Nora Atalla,
Carol-Ann Belzil-Normand, Jean Désy

HOST: Vanessa Bell

MUSIC: Anyma' Ora

PRIZES in each stream

1st - \$5,000 for the student

2nd - \$3,000 for the student

3rd - \$2,000 for the student

CRITERIA

Students will be marked on their accuracy, voice and articulation, interpretation, physical presence, and understanding of the poem.

STREAMS

FRENCH STREAM

Students recite two poems in French

Myriam Desgagnés

Cégep du Vieux Montréal, Montreal, QC

Juliette lezzoni

Collège Mont-Saint-Louis, Montreal, QC

Kristy Murangwa

École Alexandre-Taché, St. Albert, AB

BILINGUAL STREAM

Students recite one poem in English
and one poem in French

Aïta Diop

Collège de Lévis, Lévis, QC

Catherine Ji

University of Toronto Schools, Toronto, ON

Cianna Rukundo

École secondaire Étienne-Brûlé, Toronto, ON

ENGLISH STREAM

Students recite two poems in English

Frederick Chan

Vancouver Christian School, Vancouver, BC

Amelia King

Little Flower Academy, Vancouver, BC

Melody Ovuakporoyecha

St. Malachy's Memorial High School,
Saint John, NB



NATIONAL FINALS

WELCOME

ENGLISH AND FRENCH STREAMS, ROUND 1

Pre-21st century poems

Kristy Murangwa

“Ni connu ni cru,” Yambo Ouologem

Melody Ovuakporoyecha

“Common Magic,” Bronwen Wallace

Myriam Desgagnés

“Je vis, je meurs,” Louise Labé

Frederick Chan

“Self-Portrait,” Robert Creeley

Juliette Iezzoni

“Je t’écris,” Gaston Miron

Amelia King

“A Breakfast for Barbarians,”

Gwendolyn MacEwen

BILINGUAL STREAM, ROUNDS 1 & 2

Catherine Ji

“i am graffiti,” Leanne Betasamosake Simpson

Cianna Rukundo

“Dans la maison du souvenir...,”

Pierre Chatillon

Aïta Diop

“I Lost My Talk,” Rita Joe

Catherine Ji

“Jean-Talon tentaculaire,” François Rioux

Cianna Rukundo

“the ghosts of women once girls,” Aja Monet

Aïta Diop

“Tombe des morts!,” René Philombe

ENGLISH AND FRENCH STREAMS, ROUND 2

Frederick Chan

“Hindsight,” Victoria Chang

Juliette Iezzoni

“beauté formol,” Chloé Savoie-Bernard

Amelia King

“Enigma,” Andrea Thompson

Kristy Murangwa

“Tu me donneras l’eau,”

Titinga Frédéric Pacéré

Melody Ovuakporoyecha

“I Am,” Titilope Sonuga

Myriam Desgagnés

“Je viens comme une mante religieuse...,”

Denise Boucher





FUTUREVERSE

National Finals takes place alongside FutureVerse, an all-expenses-paid four-day poetry intensive. FutureVerse gives emerging poets the opportunity to work with professional authors, publishers, and artists as students develop their unique voices. This year, participants had the opportunity to go on a poetry hunt across Quebec City, take a guided ecopoetic walk, attend panels on publishing and on the life of professional poets, and participate in workshops on varied topics such as poetry & collage, Indigenous finger weaving, and revising their work. For a year after FutureVerse, participants will also meet online to continue sharing, developing, and growing as writers. All FutureVerse participants are high school students whose exceptional poetry, submitted to the VOICES/VOIX journal, was shortlisted by our editors Manahil Bandukwala and Michel Pleau.

HERE ARE THE 2026 FUTUREVERSE PARTICIPANTS:

Kaniq Allerton

École Secondaire
Kelvin High School,
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Naré Armenian

Collège Sainte-
Marcelline, Montreal,
Quebec

Camille Audette

Cégep de L'Outaouais
– Campus Gabrielle-
Roy, Gatineau, Quebec

Mythili

Garikiparthi

École Riverside
Secondary School,
Port Coquitlam,
British Columbia

Eloise Gibbens

École Secondaire
Sentinel Secondary
School, West
Vancouver, British
Columbia

Rose Haberer

Central Toronto
Academy, Toronto,
Ontario

Emma Rose

Hawkins

Bellerose Composite
High School, St.
Albert, Alberta

Madelyn Hook

Loyalist Collegiate &
Vocational Institute,
Kingston, Ontario

Japleen Joshi

Aurora Academic
Charter High School,
Edmonton, Alberta

Hortense Léon

Collège Jésus-Marie
de Sillery, Quebec
City, Quebec

Kupakwashe

Mambudzi

Cobequid Educational
Centre, Truro, Nova
Scotia

Evans N'Goran

École Maurice-
Lavallée, Edmonton,
Alberta

Archie Shah

Woburn Collegiate
Institute,
Scarborough, Ontario

Nadine Telesford

Martingrove
Collegiate Institute,
Etobicoke, Ontario

Poppy Walsh

Sacred Heart School
of Halifax, Halifax,
Nova Scotia

Finn Ye

Richmond Secondary
School, Richmond,
British Columbia

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Online Qualifiers judges:

Francine Cunningham, Alexandre Dostie, Carol-Ann Hoyte, Doyali Islam, Lorrie Jean-Louis, Sophie Jeukens, Ian LeTourneau, Jacob Scheier, Kevin Spent

We would like to thank our volunteers for their invaluable contributions to this event:

Louise Côté, Victor Desrochers, Nicolas Paquin, Zofia Rose, Rae Marie Taylor

We would like to thank our FutureVerse workshop leaders:

Vanessa Bell, Jean Désy, Geneviève Duong, Stéphanie Filion, Sue Goyette, Kaie Kellough, Jónína Kirton, Andrée Lévesque-Siouï, Amanda Merpaw, Michel Pleau, Ariane Tapp

SIGN UP FOR 2026/2027

Teachers, bring poetry to life with your students! Our resources are free and include a collection of over 1,200 poems in English and French, as well as writing prompts, lesson plans, Mixtapes (thematic mini-anthologies), and more!

With our Poets in Class program, you can also have a poet run a workshop with your students!

Sign up now at poetryinvoice.ca

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