

# POETRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CALLING ALL POETS SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR POETRY NOW: 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BARDS

**TORONTO, Thursday, January 19** — Submissions are now open for **Poetry NOW: 9<sup>th</sup> annual Battle of the Bards**, presented by IFOA and their long-time media partner **NOW Magazine**. This popular poetry competition celebrates Canadian poetry by showcasing 20 upcoming and established writers in a night of readings on **Wednesday, March 29, 2017**. **One poet will win an invitation to read at the 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Festival of Authors (October 19–29, 2017) and have their book and event advertised in NOW.**

Twenty poets will be selected by random draw from all eligible submissions and invited to read for a maximum of five minutes. IFOA Director **Geoffrey E. Taylor**, Juno award winning recording artist and dub poet **Lillian Allen** and 2016 Poetry NOW winner **Chris Chambers** will select the night's winner. *NOW Magazine's* **Susan G. Cole** will host.

In keeping with IFOA's mandate to promote new literature and new voices, participants' books must have been published within the past five years and be currently in print with a trade publisher.

**Submissions should be made by the poet's publishing representative by Friday, February 24 at 5pm.** For full submission criteria visit [ifoa.org](http://ifoa.org). Participating poets will be announced **March 2**.

**Tickets to attend the event are \$10** (free for supporters, students with ID and youth 25 and under) and will go on sale **January 31**. IFOA is pleased to offer a 50% discount to members of the League of Canadian poets. For more information and to purchase tickets, the public may visit [ifoa.org](http://ifoa.org) or call the **Harbourfront Centre Box Office at 416 973 4000**.

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Since its inception in 1974, [IFOA](http://ifoa.org) has hosted over 9,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 22 Nobel Laureates. Our season runs from September to June and includes the annual International Festival of Authors (October 20–30, 2016), including YoungIFOA and IFOA Ontario, and the annual ALOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers with Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ (May 2017).

Toronto's independent weekly, **NOW Magazine** was launched in 1981 as the city's alternative voice. Since then, it has become the largest alternative news and entertainment weekly in North America, and is considered one of Toronto's most influential taste-making publications both in print weekly and online every day of the week. *NOW Magazine* is available free every Thursday and daily on [nowtoronto.com](http://nowtoronto.com), mobile and iPad. Find *NOW* on Twitter [@nowtoronto](https://twitter.com/nowtoronto).

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