



Literature Fellowships

Literature Fellowships represent one of the Arts Endowment’s most direct investments in American creativity by supporting writers in the development of their work. The program’s goal is to encourage the production of new work by affording artists the time and means to write. Simultaneously, the fellowships give writers national recognition and invaluable validation of their talent to peers, agents, publishers and presenters around the country. Fellowships are awarded in alternate years for poetry and prose.

Creative Writing Fellowships: Poetry

Craig Anthony Arnold	Salt Lake City, UT	Dainis Hazners	Story, WY
Marianne Boruch	West Lafayette, IN	Robert Hicok	Ann Arbor, MI
Kim Suzanne Bridgford	Wallingford, CT	Peter M. Jacobs	Madison, WI
Lucie Brock-Broido	Cambridge, MA	Peter M. Johnson	Providence, RI
Joel R. Brouwer II	East Lansing, MI	Dana Levin	Ukiah, CA
Derick W. Burleson	Houston, TX	Sarah Messer	North Marshfield, MA
Anne Caston	Lexington Park, MD	Wendy M. Mnookin	Chestnut Hill, MA
Nancy L. Couto	Ithaca, NY	Jacqueline S. Osherow	Salt Lake City, UT
George Economou	Norman, OK	John J. Ronan	Gloucester, MA
Maurya Simon Falk	Mt. Baldy, CA	Jill Allyn Rosser	Athens, OH
Mary Elizabeth Fisk	Nevada City, CA	Vijay R. Seshadri	Brooklyn, NY
Sarah Elizabeth Fox	Minneapolis, MN	Lisa Sewell	Fort Worth, TX
Christine E. Garren	Greensboro, NC	David James Smith	Fresno, CA
Sonia G. Gernes	South Bend, IN	Michael Leon Stokesbury	Doraville, GA
Robert Alan Gibb	Homestead, PA	Russell William Thorburn	Marquette, MI
Julie Jordan Hanson	Cedar Rapids, IA	Natasha Trethewey	Auburn, AL



“How can you say you don’t think you’ve led a very interesting life? Take your nine years and consider this one thing in them: texture.”

The opening lines of *Importance* by fellowship recipient Julie Jordan Hanson of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Photo courtesy of the artist

The Endowment's investment in American letters has helped ensure that a diversity of voices defines our national literature. It has also fostered talent within a marketplace that often rewards homogeneity more than innovation, demonstrated by the fact that six individual authors accounted for 63 of the top 100 best-selling books of the 1990's. During the past 33 years, the Endowment has awarded \$36 million through its Literature Fellowships to 2,360 writers, providing support to lesser-known authors who later achieve national stature. These writers include some of the most acclaimed poets of our time, such as Robert Pinsky, Rita Dove, Philip Levine, Louise Glück and Frances Mayes.

The competition for the \$20,000 Fellowships is extremely rigorous. Of 942 applicants in Fiscal Year 1999, 32 were awarded grants, a funding rate of three percent. This year's recipients include Robert Gibb, who is completing the second and third volumes of a trilogy of poetry books exploring the mill town of Homestead, Pennsylvania. Another 1999 recipient, Natasha Trethewey, is completing a manuscript of poems based on the life of an early 20th-century New Orleans woman portrayed in E.J. Bellocq's *Storyville Portraits*. Eight of this year's grants supported the translation into English of poetry from other languages.

Translation Fellowships

Florence Chana Bloch	Berkeley, CA
John T. DuVal	Fayetteville, AR
Lois Baker Janzer	Portland, OR
Bill Johnston	St. Paul, MN
Pierre Joris	Albany, NY
Nina Kossman	Long Island City, NY
Khaled Mattawa	Chapel Hill, NC
Lawrence Venuti	New York, NY



*"I'm cooking Thai—you bring the beer.
The same order, although it's been a year*

*—friendships based on food are rarely stable.
We should have left ours at the table."*

The opening lines of *Hot* by fellowship recipient Craig Arnold of Salt Lake City, Utah. Photo by Sean Graff



American Jazz Masters Fellowships

The arrival of a new millennium presents all Americans with an opportunity to reflect on our nation's rich musical history. America brought to the world the gift of jazz — music that has been an outstanding influence on our cultural heritage throughout the 20th century and called by Congress a “national treasure.”

Each year, the National Endowment for the Arts recognizes the importance of jazz and honors living jazz masters for their artistic vision and long-lasting, unique contributions by awarding the American Jazz Masters Fellowships. This year's distinguished recipients of the \$20,000 awards, presented by Chairman Ivey, were: David Baker, dedicated jazz educator and music director of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra; Donald Byrd, pioneer trumpet virtuoso and leading educator; and improvisational pianist Marian McPartland, host of the Peabody Award-winning radio series, *Piano Jazz*. Their names will be added to the roster of 55 other members who, since 1982, have been awarded the American Jazz Masters Fellowships.



Photo by Bob Day

“Every day I try to live up to the standards that were taught to me by my father. He told me that my life should be ‘not honor, but service.’ He also said ‘If I am not the best, be among the best.’”

Donald Byrd



Photo by John Abbott

“I love being part of the jazz world and music education . . . I want to give back something in return for all the many wonderful opportunities that have been given to me during my lifetime.”

Marian McPartland



Photo by Matt McClain

“This award is especially meaningful to me because it symbolizes the commitment of the Endowment and of our country to recognize in a formal way the contributions American jazz artists have made to the world of music.”

David Baker

National Heritage Fellowships

A A Lakota-Hidatsa storyteller passes on tales of her tribal heritage to Indian youth of the Dakotas. A Mexican-American craftsman takes his western horsehair braiding tradition to a new level of perfection. An Irish immigrant musician sparks a renaissance of Irish music across America. These and other recipients of the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts — the NEA's National Heritage Fellowship — have devoted their lives as innovators, teachers, organizers, role models and "living libraries" of knowledge to conserve and renew their deeply-rooted, living cultural heritage.

In Fiscal Year 1999, 13 artists from 12 states were awarded National Heritage Fellowships of \$10,000 each in a ceremony held on Capitol Hill that was attended by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, members of Congress and the public. The awardees later presented their craft, music and dance traditions in a performance that was broadcast widely on public radio stations.

National Heritage Fellows

Frisner Augustin
Haitian Drummer
Brooklyn, NY

Lila Greengrass Blackdeer
Hocak Black Ash Basketmaker/Needleworker
Black River Falls, WI

Shirley Caesar
African-American Gospel Singer
Durham, NC

Alfredo Campos
Horse-Hair Hitcher
Federal Way, WA

Mary Louise Defender-Wilson
Dakotah-Hidatsa Traditionalist/Storyteller
Shields, ND

Jimmy "Slyde" Godbolt
Tap Dancer
Hanson, MA

Ulysses "Uly" Goode
Western Mono Basketmaker
North Fork, CA

Bob Holt
Ozark Fiddler
Ava, MO

Zakir Hussain
North Indian Master Tabla Drummer
San Anselmo, CA

Elliott "Ellie" Mannette
Steel Pan Builder/Tuner/Player
Morgantown, WV

Mick Moloney
Irish Musician
Philadelphia, PA

Eudokia Sorochaniuk
Ukrainian Weaver/Textile Artist
Pennsauken, NJ

Ralph W. Stanley
Master Boatbuilder
Southwest Harbor, ME



Zakir Hussain is hailed as one of the world's great percussionists for his stellar technique, musicality, rhythmic complexity and melodic versatility.
Photo by John Werner



Ralph Stanley has built and/or restored countless wooden boats, ranging from lobster vessels to racing sloops and pleasure yachts with his meticulous attention to fine workmanship, traditional process and design.
Photo by Craig Milner