



**MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Attn: Entertainment, Arts & Culture Editors

January 18, 2018

## **CALLING ALL POETS SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR THE 10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BARDS**

**TORONTO, ON** — The [International Festival of Authors \(IFOA\)](#) has announced that submissions are now open for the **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Bards**, presented with media partner [NOW Magazine](#). This anniversary edition of the popular poetry competition will celebrate a decade of showcasing Canadian voices. The event will take place **Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7:30pm at Harbourfront Centre**.

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Bards will follow its successful long-running format of staging 20 emerging and established poets head-to-head. Each poet will be given three minutes to read their work, which can range from poignant to humorous. Of the 20 poets, one will win an invitation to read at the 39<sup>th</sup> edition of Toronto's **International Festival of Authors (October 18–28, 2018)**, and have their book and Festival event advertised in *NOW Magazine*.

The winner will be selected by a judging panel composed of **Geoffrey E. Taylor**, IFOA Director, **Zviko Mhakayakora**, IFOA Executive Assistant Programming, and 2017 Battle of the Bards winner **Stuart Ross** (prize-winning author of 20 books of poetry, fiction, and essays, most recently the poetry collection *A Sparrow Came Down Resplendent*). The event will be hosted by *NOW Magazine's* **Susan G. Cole**.

“Judging the Battle of the Bards is one of my favourite things to do each year,” says **Taylor**. “The caliber of talent has been consistently high across the board for a decade. I’m sure the next edition won’t disappoint.”

Poets who wish to read their work in the competition must have their publishing representative **submit an entry form at [IFOA.org/PoetryNow10](http://IFOA.org/PoetryNow10) by February 28 at 5pm**. The 20 reading finalists will be selected by random draw from all eligible submissions, and announced on **March 8**. Publishers will be notified by **March 2**.

Poets must have at least one published title to their name to be eligible. 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. For full submission criteria and guidelines visit, [IFOA.org/PoetryNOW10](http://IFOA.org/PoetryNOW10).

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Bards – March 28, 2018 at 7:30pm**

**Submissions due:** February 28 at 5pm

**Event date:** March 28, 2018 at 7:30pm

**Tickets:** \$10 (FREE for IFOA Members, League of Canadian Poets Members, Students with a valid school ID, and youth aged 25 and under) can be acquired at [ifoa.org](http://ifoa.org) or by phone or in person at the [Harbourfront Centre Box Office](#) at 416-973-4000.

**Social Sharing**

**Twitter** | Calling all poets! @IFOA is now accepting submissions for The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Bards. Enter for your chance to take the stage! <https://goo.gl/HJEdGK> #PoetryNOW

**Facebook** | Calling all poets! @InternationalFestivalofAuthors is accepting submissions for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle of the Bards. Apply by February 28 for your chance to take the stage. #PoetryNOW <https://goo.gl/HJEdGK>

**About Toronto's International Festival of Authors (IFOA)**

Since its inception in 1974, Toronto's **International Festival of Authors (IFOA)** has hosted over 9,000 authors from more than 100 countries, including 22 Nobel Laureates. Mandated to cultivate and advance the cause of literature, the IFOA presents the finest international novelists, poets, playwrights, short story writers and biographers, while providing Canadian writers a global forum in which to present their work. The IFOA's event season runs from September to June at Harbourfront Centre, and includes the annual International Festival of Authors (October 18-28, 2018), IFOA Ontario, Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™, and Toronto Lit Up. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or visit us at [IFOA.org](http://IFOA.org).

**About NOW**

Celebrating over 36 years as Toronto's leading independent media voice, NOW provides approximately half a million weekly readers with 24/7 coverage of everything cultural and political in our city. As the go-to source for local news, reviews, event listings and much more, NOW creates inclusive networks between all communities. Visit [nowtoronto.com](http://nowtoronto.com) for more info.

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