



2020 Drums Along the Hudson Honoree



Photo: Matika Wilbur

Joy Harjo is an internationally renowned performer and writer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and was named the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States in 2019.

The author of nine books of poetry, several plays and children's books, and a memoir, *Crazy Brave*, her many honors include the Ruth Lilly Prize for Lifetime Achievement from the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets Wallace Stevens Award, a PEN USA Literary Award, Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Writers' Award, a Rasmuson US Artist Fellowship, two NEA fellowships, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Harjo is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets and is a founding board member of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she is a Tulsa Artist Fellow. Since 1993, Tom has been the founder, director and spiritual leader of the traditional Mohawk Community of **Kanatsiohareke**, located in the homeland of his ancestors, near Albany, New York. In 2008, Tom Porter published the book *And Grandma Said... Iroquois Teachings*, in which we get to see in print a lifetime of teachings and memories, in words direct from the heart of, in Doug George's words, "a person who has devoted his life to preserving the heritage of his Nation." (www.mohawkcommunity.org)

In 2009, Harjo won a Native American Music Award (NAMMY) for Best Female Artist of the Year for *Winding Through the Milky Way*. Her most recent album release is a traditional flute album: *Red Dreams, A Trail Beyond Tears*. She performs nationally and internationally with her band, the Arrow Dynamics. She also performs her one-woman show, *Wings of Night Sky, Wings of Morning Light*, which premiered at the Wells Fargo Theater in Los Angeles in 2009 with recent performances at the Public Theater in NYC and La Jolla Playhouse as part of the Native Voices at the Autry. Her albums have received awards and nominations from the First Americans in the Arts, First Native American Music Awards, American Indian Film Festival, and New Mexico Music Awards.



An American Sunrise

Poems by Joy Harjo

A stunning new volume from the first Native American Poet Laureate of the United States, informed by her tribal history and connection to the land.

In the early 1800s, the Mvskoke people were forcibly removed from their original lands east of the Mississippi to Indian Territory, which is now part of Oklahoma. Two hundred years later, Joy Harjo returns to her family's lands and opens a dialogue with history. In *An American Sunrise*, Harjo finds blessings in the abundance of her homeland and confronts the site where her people, and other indigenous families, essentially disappeared. From her memory of her mother's death, to her beginnings in the native rights movement, to the fresh road with her beloved, Harjo's personal life intertwines with tribal histories to create a space for renewed beginnings. Her poems sing of beauty and survival, illuminating a spirituality that connects her to her ancestors and thrums with the quiet anger of living in the ruins of injustice. A descendent of storytellers and "one of our finest—and most complicated—poets" (Los Angeles Review of Books), Joy Harjo continues her legacy with this latest powerful collection.

"An American Sunrise is full of celebration, crisis, brokenness and healing, with poems that rely on lyric techniques like repetition, avoidance of temporal specifics and the urge to speak collectively..."

—Daisy Fried, *New York Times*

