

# Media Alert: 2019 Poetry Out Loud State Finals – Tuesday, Feb. 26

## Twelve Delaware high school students to compete for the state title

### MEDIA ADVISORY

February 22, 2019

**WHAT:** Twelve Delaware high school students will participate in the state finals for Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest at Smyrna Opera House. The winner of this competition will represent Delaware and advance to the National Finals in Washington, DC on April 29 – May 1, 2019, where \$50,000 in awards and school stipends will be distributed. This program is sponsored by the Delaware Division of the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Poetry Foundation.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Students start arriving at 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** Smyrna Opera House, 7 W South Street, Smyrna, DE 19977

**WHO:** Finalists, Featured Speakers and Judges will be:

## 2019 Delaware State Finalists

| <u>Name</u>  | <u>School</u>     |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Emma Elliott | Dover High School |

|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Chelsea Anokye-Agyei   | Hodgson Vo-Tech High School |
| Sarah Stevenson        | Milford Senior High School  |
| Nadia Sheikh           | MOT Charter High School     |
| Daniel Patrick Johnson | Mount Sophia Academy        |
| Megan Chen             | Newark Charter High School  |
| Ashton Driver          | Red Lion Christian Academy  |
| Anne Rosenthal         | Sanford School              |
| Brandon Greenlee       | Sussex Central High School  |
| Samuel McGarvey        | Tall Oaks Classical School  |
| Catherine Enslin       | Ursuline Academy            |
| Mariela Rivero         | Wilmington Christian School |

**Speakers and judges will be:**

**Speakers:**

*Paul Weagraff, Director, Delaware Division of the Arts*

*J. Mack Wathen, Chair, Delaware State Arts Council*

**Mistress of Ceremonies:**

*Donna DeKuyper, Singer, Actress and Co-Owner, Hotel Blue, Lewes, DE*

**Judges:**

*Dr. Ethan Joella, English and Social Sciences Faculty, University of Delaware, Georgetown, Director, Ethan Joella Communications*

*Susan Kehoe, Managing Partner, Browseabout Books, Rehoboth Beach, DE*

*Reverend John G. Moore, Director, Philanthropy and Engagement, United Way of Delaware*

*Chet'la Sebree, 2019 Individual Artist Fellow – Poetry*

*Dr. David Teague, Professor of English, Associate in Arts Program, University of Delaware*

*Dr. Jesse Zuba, Assistant Professor of English, Delaware State University*

*Christian Wills, Former Poetry Out Loud Contestant will serve as the Prompter*

*Heather Morrissey, Delaware State Arts Council Member will serve as Accuracy Judge*

**Entertainment:**

*JW2, is made up of James Witherite (organ) and Jonathan W. Whitney (drums), who bring their own originals and favorites from the jazz, funk, and old-school R&B genres to life.*

**OTHER:** Attendance at Smyrna Opera House is free and open to the public. The 2019 Poetry Out Loud Media Kit for this event is available on our website. Hi-Res photos will be available the day after the event. Use hashtags: #POL19, #iampoetryoutloud, and #DDOA30. Tag us at: @ArtsDelaware

###

Contact: Leann WalleTT, Program Officer, Communications and Marketing

302-577-8280, [leann.walleTT@delaware.gov](mailto:leann.walleTT@delaware.gov)