

Poetry Moment -Details and Guidelines

Airs Monday – Friday at 9:00 a.m. on SPR
Classical (91.9 FM)



Poetry Moment features regional poets and poetry lovers reading 5 selected poems, recorded at Spokane Public Radio, to air each day for a week.

You can hear past episodes of Poetry Moment on SPR's website:
[http://www.spokanepublicradio.org/\[programs/poetry-moment](http://www.spokanepublicradio.org/[programs/poetry-moment)

General guidelines for selecting poems

Please note these are guidelines, not strict rules. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

1. Recordings must be a maximum of 3 minutes. Short readings are better assimilated by radio listeners.
2. If you are a poet, we would prefer *at least one* and *no more than three days* of your own poetry. The other days can be classic or contemporary poems of your choice.
3. Poems of any style that can be comprehended on one hearing by a broad audience are expected. It's generally best to avoid overly dense or complex language and imagery. Brief introductions that contextualize and help guide the listener are encouraged, but the poem itself should be accessible without introduction.
4. Subject matter relevant to a range of human experience is desired. Keep in mind that this show is broadcast as people are starting their weekday morning. Use of poems about sensitive issues will be decided on a case-by-case basis by SPR producers.
5. Language: Due to FCC rules, the obvious several words should not be used. We can bleep or drop out expletives, but would prefer not to.
6. Permission: You must have the author or publisher's permission, unless the poem is in the public domain (published in 1925 or earlier). For work not in the public domain, please reach out to authors or publishers to obtain permission prior to recording. This can be email or telephone, but we will need written affirmative

consent for the author's work to be read by you and broadcast on *Poetry Moment*. An email answer will suffice.

A programming note: Some of the most successful and enjoyable weeks are when poets consider a loose theme or organizing principle for their readings (e.g. homage poems, regional poets, nature poems, formal poems, translations, etc.). This is not a requirement but is something to consider when choosing your readings.

Guidelines for recording poems-remotely (this must be pre-arranged with SPR)

Ideally, a reader would be able to visit the SPR studio and have our staff produce a professional recording. However, if you are unable to access our studio, we offer these tips for producing your own recordings using your phone or other recording device.

Tips for creating a clear, engaging recording:

- Don't try to recite the poem from memory. Rehearse reading it from the page. This will help minimize potential gaffes and ensure the poem can be delivered within the 3-minute time limit.
- Read in a calm, even slow pace. Racing through the poem may limit a listener's ability to enjoy the experience.
- Experiment with your distance from the microphone. Too close, and those plosive "p" and "b" sounds may blast the listener; too far away, and fainter tones may be inaudible.
- Minimize ambient and background noise. Turn off any background music, and place your recording equipment or phone mic away from any fans or air filters that might cycle on during the recording.

If you have questions, please email:

poetry@kpbx.org