

**Joy Harjo is a multi-dimensional/multi-cultural talent.**

**She's a poet/songwriter, sax player, singer, and author.**

Her roots extend from her birthplace in the Mvskoke Creek Indian Nation in Tulsa, Oklahoma--to the southwestern U.S. where she attended Indian school at the Institute of American Indian Arts, the University of New Mexico and began writing poetry that was influenced by southwestern Indian music and philosophies and the native rights movements--to the stopping place of wildly urban LA, to her home in Honolulu, Hawaii.

She is an award-winning poet of over 10 books.

Her first CD was the award winning **Letter From the End of the Twentieth Century** from Silver Wave Records, with her first band, Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice.

Harjo's music video **Eagle Song** premiered 2002, and Harjo was awarded the Eagle Spirit award from the American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco.

**Native Joy for Real** from Mekko Productions, Inc was released in 2004. This CD was featured on NPR as a summer selection by Alan Cheuse in 2005, and one of the top ten best poetry CD's the same year by Bob Holman and Margery Snyder on About.

#### **Comments**

Paul Winter, "...I look forward to more of your music. You sounded great tonight! (Nice vibrato!)"

"Harjo's wide ranging vision and inventive use of rhythm, has created something unique, a Native American version of dub poetry that's just as incendiary as its Jamaican forbearers." Pulse, Tower Records Magazine Four stars.

#### **Some highlights:**

- Over 100,000 books sold nationally and internationally
- 10,000 sold of her first music CD **Letter from the End of the Twentieth Century**, Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice 1997 from Silver Wave Records.
- Is featured on the Smithsonian's **American Indian Women CD**
- Narrator for the Turner Network Series, **The Native Americans**
- Featured musical guest on Aboriginal Television Network, Toronto, Canada 2002
- **HBO Def Poetry Jam 2002**
- Genoa International Poetry Festival, Italy, featured guest 2002
- Cultural Olympiad at the 1996 Olympics. Other guests included Percy Sledge and the Squirrel Nut Zippers
- The Honor Tour, opened for the Indigo Girls
- Appears on The Indigo Girls **Honor** CD, Daemon Records

#### **Awards**

Beyond Margins 2002 Award, The Pen American Center Open Book Committee June 15, 2002  
American Indian Festival of Words Author Award. Tulsa Library Trust. Tulsa, Oklahoma. 2001.  
Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund Writers' Award, 1998-2000.

Award for Meritorious Contributions to American Indian People, 27th Annual Symposium on the American Indian, Northeastern State University, 1999.

The Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America, with Gloria Bird for *Reinventing the Enemy's Language*, 1998.

Record of the Year, First Americans in the Arts, for Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice, **Letter From the End of the Twentieth Century**, 1998.

Nominee (8 categories), First Native American Music Awards, for Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice, **Letter From the End of the Twentieth Century**, 1998.  
Finalist, Best Native American Recording, Association for Independent Music, for Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice, **Letter From the End of the Twentieth Century**, 1998.  
New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, 1997.  
*The London Observer* Best Book of 1997 Award, for *Reinventing the Enemy's Language*, 1997.  
Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers Award for Song Lyric and Musical Composition, for Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice, 1997.  
Favorite Indian Writer, *Oklahoma Indian Times* Reader's Poll, 1997.  
Favorite Indian Musician (2nd), *Oklahoma Indian Times* Reader's Poll, 1997.  
Bravo Award, Albuquerque Arts Alliance, 1996.  
Lifetime Achievement Award, Native Writers Circle of the Americas, 1995.  
American Indian Distinguished Achievement in the Arts Award, 1990.

### **Performances**

"They Came Singing: A Concert Celebrating the Musical Journey of Native Women." St. Paul, MN. April 22, 2001.  
Silver Feather Festival Tour to Salem, OR; Cape Girardeau, MO; Asheville, NC; Duke University, Durham, NC. Nov 6-12, 1999.  
Second Annual Russell Moore Music Festival, Gila River Indian Community, AZ. October 2, 1999.  
16th Annual Reggae-on-the-River Festival, Garberville, CA August 6, 1999.  
Vancouver Folk Music Festival, Canada. July 18-19, 1998.  
Smithsonian Folklife Festival, Washington, DC. June 28, 1998.  
Philadelphia Freedom Concerts, PA. June 1998.  
Native American Music Festival, Tsaile, AZ. June 12, 1998.  
Princeton University. Princeton, NJ. April 10, 1998.  
Border Voices Poetry Project, San Diego, CA. April 3, 1998.  
Multicultural Music Celebration. Bernalillo High School, Bernalillo, NM. April 24, 1998.  
**Poets Across the Generations IV.** Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice. Chicago, IL. April 21, 1999.  
Princeton University. Princeton, NJ. April 10, 1998.  
European Tour including the Stadgaarten in Koln; Heidleberg; Leipsig; Munich; and Rome, Italy. June 1997.  
Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL. November 1996.  
The Writer's Voice, 63rd St. YMCA, New York, NY. November 1996.  
The Talking Book Festival, The New School, New York, NY. November 1996.  
**Honor the Earth** CD release performance, with the Indigo Girls, Bonnie Raitt, Toad the Wet Sprocket. Shangri-La Studios, Malibu, CA. October 1996.  
Cultural Olympiad, Summer Olympics in Centennial Park, Atlanta, GA. July 1996.  
Watershed Festival, Golden Gate Park, SF, CA. April 6, 1996.  
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA. January 1996.  
La Pena Cultural Center, Berkeley, CA. January 1996.  
Bumbershoot Festival, Seattle, WA. September 1995.  
Indigo Girls **Honor the Earth** Tour, opened in Denver, Phoenix and Santa Fe. May 1995.  
Smithsonian Performing Arts Program, Washington, DC. November 1994.  
Opening of the National Museum of the American Indian, New York, NY. October 1994.  
Poetry Society of America, Festival of the Living Word, New York, NY, 1993.  
Earshot Jazz Festival, Seattle, WA. October 1993.  
Outpost Performance Space, Albuquerque, NM. April 1993.  
The Loft, Heart of the Beast Theatre, Minneapolis, MN. October 1992.  
Indian Airobics Concert, Smithsonian Institute and Native American Public Broadcasting Corporation. August 1992.  
**A Map to the Next World.** Collaborative performance with Anita Ratnam and Arangham Trust, Madras/Chennai India, August 1997.