

# Joy Harjo



Joy Harjo was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and is a member of the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation. Her seven books of poetry include *She Had Some Horses*, *The Woman Who Fell From the Sky*, and *How We Became Human, New and Selected Poems*. Her poetry has garnered many awards including a Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award; the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas; and the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America.

She has released four award-winning CD's of original music and performances: *Letter from the End of the Twentieth Century*, *Native Joy for Real*, and *She Had Some Horses*. A song from her new CD, *Winding Through the Milky Way*, just won a New Mexico Music Award. She has received the Eagle Spirit Achievement Award for overall contributions in the arts, from the American Indian Film Festival and a US Artists Fellowship for 2009. She performs internationally solo and with her band Joy Harjo and the Arrow Dynamics Band (for which she sings and plays saxophone and flutes), and premiered a preview of her one-woman show, *Wings of Night Sky, Wings of Morning Light* at the Public Theater in NYC and opened at the Wells Fargo Theater in LA March 2009. She co-wrote the signature film of the National Museum of the American Indian, *A Thousand Roads*.



She is a founding board member of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. Harjo writes a column "Comings and Goings" for her tribal newspaper, the Muscogee Nation News.

## BOOKS

### **The Last Song**

Puerto del Sol Press 1975

### **What Moon Drove Me to This?**

I. Reed Books, 1979

### **She Had Some Horses**

W.W. Norton Fall 2008, Thunder's Mouth Press 1984

### **Secrets from the Center of the World**

University of Arizona Press, 1989

**In Mad Love and War**, Wesleyan University Press, 1990

**Fishing**, Oxhead Press, 1991

**The Woman Who Fell From the Sky**, W.W. Norton 1994

**The Spiral of Memory**, U. of Michigan Press 1996

**Reinventing the Enemy's Language**, Contemporary Native Women's Writing of North America 1997

**The Good Luck Cat**, Harcourt 2000

**A Map to the Next World**, W.W. Norton, NY 2000

**How We Became Human**, New and Selected Poems  
W.W. Norton, NY 2003

**For a Girl Becoming**, University of Arizona Press  
October 2009

[www.joyharjo.com](http://www.joyharjo.com)

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Joy has performed at Universities and Colleges, Poetry Festivals (National and International), High schools, Elementary schools, Public and private schools, and Book Fairs



## Performances At:

Honor the Earth Tour with the Indigo Girls  
Atlanta Olympics  
Chopin Theater, Chicago  
Riddu Riddu Festival, Norway  
Chennai or Madras,  
India performance with Anita Ratnam, Sweden  
Ford Theater, LA  
Bill Moyer's Power of the Word TV Series  
HBO Def Poetry Jam  
Sundance Film Festival  
Garrison Keillor's Literary Friendships Show w/ Sandra Cisneros  
Aboriginal Television Network, Toronto, Canada  
Genoa International Poetry Festival  
National Museum of the American Indian  
Reggae-on-the-River  
Smithsonian Folklife Festival  
Earshot Jazz Festival  
Kolkata, India



## The standard event for a college or university:

Usually Joy arrives the night before.

Dinner with faculty, students, donors.

The next day: a class visit for a Q and A;  
lunch with native students, student club or other.

Performance that night. It can include Q and A.

Joy leaves the next day.