

# Poetry: 'Tis for thee

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Try it. You'll like it.

That's more than an old Alka-Seltzer catch-phrase. It's good advice about how to like poetry. Go to a reading; find out what strikes you. Believe me, even the poets at these things (especially them!) don't like everything. The more you try poetry on, the better it'll fit.

Starting this weekend, roaring on through April (Poetry Month), and all year, Philadelphia becomes Poetdelphia (we stole the name from Kelly McQuain, Dawn Manning, and Valerie Fox's great poetry blog), with plenty of activities.

There are readings and readings, single poets, many poets, slams, and Philly Poetry Day, April 12, on which anything is scheduled to happen.

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Spring Arts Guide: Theater

Tere O'Connor Dance troupe at FringeArts

'Don Juan' is an emotional, theatrical anti-war play

But the poetry doings in the near future also take on unexpectedly delightful shapes.

## Sing out

Friday and Sunday, the Lyric Fest concert series presents " 'Dear March - Come In - ': American Women Poets in Song." Poems by U.S. women are set to great music, some classics, as in Aaron Copland's setting of Emily Dickinson's "Dear March - Come In," and some commissioned, as in James Primosch's setting of Susan Scott Thompson's lovely sestina "Waltzing the Spheres."

Celebrated soprano Kiera Duffy, who sings several pieces on the program, e-mails that Dickinson's poems seem "innately musical, which is probably why they have been set so often to music. . . . I feel a particular affinity for her poems and a responsibility to deliver the text in as thoughtful and honest a way as I can."

Primosch says of the Thompson setting: "I want my music to serve the poem, but also to have its own life so that the meanings of the poem and the meanings of the music compound."

Lyric Fest presents " 'Dear March - Come In - ': American Women Poets in Song," 7:30 p.m. Friday, Goodhart Hall, Bryn Mawr College, 101 N. Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr. Also 3 p.m. Sunday, Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce St. Tickets: \$20 advance; \$25 door; \$5 students. 215-438-1702, lyricfest.org

Read more at [http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/20140328\\_Poetry\\_\\_\\_Tis\\_for\\_thee.html#FPC0k1U3Y3f6Kptu.99](http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/20140328_Poetry___Tis_for_thee.html#FPC0k1U3Y3f6Kptu.99)