

CALL FOR PAPERS

Michael S. Harper

“Canon Maker: Poet, Editor, Teacher, Mentor, Scholar”

Wednesday – Friday, March 13-15, 2013

The English Department at The University of Missouri – Columbia in conjunction with Cave Canem Foundation invites scholars, poets, and jazz musicians to participate in a three-day academic symposium that celebrates and explores the multi-faceted contributions of Michael S. Harper. The symposium will begin on Wednesday, March 13 and conclude on Friday, March 15, 2013 with a musical tribute and jazz poetry reading.

Michael Harper, Professor of English at Brown University since 1970, is the author of 15 books of poetry, the most recent of which is *Use Trouble* (University of Illinois Press, 2009). His *Dear John, Dear Coltrane* and *Images of Kin* were nominated for the National Book Award. He edited *The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown*, selected for the National Poetry Series in 1979, and *Every Shut Eye Ain't Asleep*. With Anthony Walton, he co-edited *The Vintage Book of African American Poetry* and is co-editor of *Chant of Saints*, an anthology of African-American Art, Writing and Scholarship.

He was the first Poet Laureate of the State of Rhode Island and has received many honors, including the 2008 Frost Medal from the Poetry Society of America, a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation and a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Award. In 1990 he received the Robert Hayden Poetry Award from the United Negro College Fund. He has been honored with honorary doctorates in Letters from Trinity College (Hartford, CT), Coe College (Cedar Rapids, IA), Notre Dame College (Manchester, NH), Kenyon College (Gambier, OH), and Rhode Island College (Providence, RI). Washington & Jefferson College (Washington, PA). He was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 1995.

For more than 42 years, Michael S. Harper has not only created a body of work that has changed the way that African-American poetry is viewed, there are four generations of published novelists, poets, playwrights, and professors who credit his teaching, mentorship and scholarship for their beginning.

This symposium promises to be a stimulating set of conversations and performances celebrating the work and vision of Harper (just days before his 75th birthday on March 18.)

We invite one-page abstracts for individual papers and panels. Students are also invited to submit abstracts for consideration. Abstract and proposals should be submitted via email to mahdk7@mail.missouri.edu (please put Michael Harper

Symposium and your last name in the subject line) and should be in either Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, or Rich Text format, 12 pt, Times Roman. Abstracts and proposals should include the following:

A cover page that contains the following information for abstracts and panels:

1. Author's name
2. Title of Submission
3. Institutional affiliation
4. Contact information (email, phone number, mailing address)

Send abstracts for papers and panels by November 16, 2012. Notification of acceptance will be made by January 28, 2013.

We are also seeking regional and local jazz artists to perform on the final night of the conference. Performers should send a link to one live performance video and bio to Glenn North at gnorth@kcjazz.org by December 7, 2012.