



FIRST  
AMENDMENT  
WRITES

# Free Speech Poetry & Songwriting Contest

*A poetry and songwriting competition celebrating the creative heights that can only be achieved when artists are free to express themselves on any theme, subject or idea.*

Contest Rules:

- Contestants may express themselves on any theme. Each song or poem submitted must be the contestant's original work.
- Grand prize for the winner of each contest is \$500.00.
- Contest is open to poets and songwriters 16 years of age and older. Applicants under the age of 18 must have parental permission prior to entering.
- Contestants may enter either the poetry or songwriting contest, **but NOT both**, and may submit only one poem or one song only.
- All contestants must fill out an entry form (see back) and pay the \$5.00 entry fee by cash or check (made payable to the Thomas Jefferson Center).  
\*Poetry contestants must include a poetry sheet, with their entry form. No name on the poetry sheet, just the poem and title.  
\*Songwriting contestants must include a written lyrics sheet and a recording of the song by MP3, CD, or tape.
- Entries should be postmarked no later than October 31, 2006, and mailed to: Thomas Jefferson Center, 400 Worrell Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22911.
- Judging for the contest will take place in two stages. Those making it to the second round will be required to read or perform their work at Starr Hill Restaurant on the evening of Thursday, November 16, 2006. The winning submission in both the poetry and songwriting contests will be chosen and announced that evening by poet Rita Dove, musician Boyd Tinsley, and music industry executive Bruce Flohr.
- This contest is co-sponsored by Starr Hill Presents, the Music Resource Center, and the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression. Employees of those organizations are not eligible for the competition.
- By entering the contest, contestants give permission to the sponsoring organizations to read, play, display, or otherwise publicize the content of their contest submissions.
- For more information, visit [www.musicresourcecenter.org](http://www.musicresourcecenter.org) or call the Music Resource Center: 434.979.5478

**Entries must be postmarked no later than October 31, 2006, and mailed to  
First Amendment Writes  
The Thomas Jefferson Center, 400 Worrell Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22911**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Entry \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:                  Poetry Contest                  Songwriting Contest

I have read and agree to the rules and terms of this contest:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parental Signature (if under 18)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_