

Balticon 47 Poetry Contest Winners

The Music of the Stars

The music of the stars is
so very faint it is drowned
by the sounds of the city,

the steady drone of traffic,
the whine of sirens wailing
through day and night,

the clamor of crowds and
the hubbub of the media.
The music of the stars is

so very faint it is lost
in the static of the rain,
the timbres of the wind

batting against the trees,
in the rhythm of waves
consuming the shore.

The music of the stars is
so very faint, yet there
remain those of a certain

mind and heart who listen
hard enough to hear it,
never completely sure

what kind of music it is,
yet convinced it is the
one they must dance to.

Bruce Boston
1st Place – © 2013
Ocala, FL

The Lottery, Revisited

This time, I don't attend. I wait at
my window as Widow Jamison appears,
replete in bombazine. She struts to
the platform, ready to draw a name.

Her sons had been unlucky in the draw;
seven years she watched as each was
stoned to death, yet she shed not one tear.
But she still does her hair a certain way
for attendance at another turn of chance,
the lottery in our small New England town.

My daughters lie within the ground,
their bruised bodies turned to bones.
Queen of the roost, she thinks she is,
standing so proud in that deadly pulpit.

I've only one left to offer for the draw—
a son, while hers rot in their graves.
But that's not what angers me the most.
Had I no faith, I'd cast the first stone,
bury it deep into her pious temple.

My son kisses me before he leaves to join
the gathered crowd, a stone in his hand.

Marge Simon
3rd Place – © 2013
Ocala, FL

Honorable Mentions

Crab Nebula
AC Edwards
Tappahannock, VA

Salem Witch House
Leah Angstman
Palo Alto, CA

Complete Poetry Contest rules, previous
winners, and entry form can be found at:
www.bsfs.org/bsfspoetry.htm.

Drenched in Light

Stars exploding in dark skies
like fireworks destroying gaseous material
unreachable heights that climb

taller than any mountains topped with
snow and ice reflecting sunlight from the
heavens above. Grass swaying in
unison not like the oceans

drifting apart with each gentle pull
from gravity, the cooing,
seductive element of surprise
that hides underground in the shadows

and is not afraid to tempt stray
occurrences. Dragging away those soaking in sunlight,
and drowning them in complete darkness that even the stars
couldn't destroy.

Kadie Bennis
2nd Place – © 2013
Woodbridge VA

About the Winning Poets

Bruce Boston (*First Place*)—Bruce Boston's poetry has appeared in hundreds of publications and received numerous awards. He is the author of fifty books and chapbooks.

Kadie Bennis (*Second Place*)—I am a high school senior in the creative writing program at my school. I enjoy writing poetry and fiction. I've been to a variety of different writing camps and classes.

Marge Simon (*Third Place*)—Marge Simon is a past president of the SFPA and editor of *Star*Line*. A former 1995 Best Long Poem Rhysling winner, she won the Bram Stoker Award™ for Superior achievement in poetry, 2008, the *Strange Horizons* Readers Award, 2010, and the SFPA Dwarf Stars Award for short poetry, 2012. She does other stuff too, like write & publish short fictions and artify for various genre publications and herself, for sanity's sake.

