



Joy
Harjo



Author

Joy Harjo is an internationally renowned performer and writer of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.

She served three terms as the 23rd Poet Laureate of the United States from 2019-2022.

The author of nine books of poetry, including the highly acclaimed *An American Sunrise*, several plays and children's books, and two memoirs, *Crazy Brave* and *Poet Warrior*, her many honors include the Ruth Lily Prize for Lifetime Achievement from the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets Wallace Stevens Award, two NEA fellowships, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.



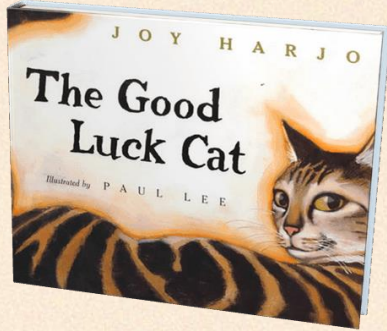
Musician

Harjo performs with her saxophone and flutes, solo and with her band, the *Arrow Dynamics Band*, and previously with *Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice*. She has toured across the U.S. and in Europe, South America, India, Africa, and Canada. Harjo has produced seven award-winning music albums including *Winding Through the Milky Way*, for which she was awarded a NAMMY for Best Female Artist of the year, and her newest album, *I Pray for My Enemies*.



Children's Books

Joy has published two award-winning children's books, [The Good Luck Cat](#) and [For a Girl Becoming](#).



[The Good Luck Cat](#) is a modern Native American story celebrating the special relationship between a young girl and her cat. Woogie the cat gets into one mishap after another. Everyone starts to worry. Can a good luck cat's good luck run out?



[For a Girl Becoming](#) is the perfect gift to recognize a birth, graduation, or any other significant moment in a young woman's life. A unique, poetic tale of the joys and lessons of a girl's journey through birth, youth, and finally adulthood.

Education



Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, she left home to attend high school at the innovative Institute of American Indian Arts, which was then a Bureau of Indian Affairs school. Harjo began writing poetry as a member of the University of New Mexico's Native student organization, the Kiva Club, in response to Native empowerment movements. She went on to earn her MFA at the Iowa Writers' Workshop and teach English, Creative Writing, and American Indian Studies at University of California-Los Angeles, University of New Mexico, University of Arizona, Arizona State, University of Illinois, University of Colorado, University of Hawai'i, Institute of American Indian Arts, and University of Tennessee, while performing music and poetry nationally and internationally.

Multimedia

