



**For Immediate Release!**

For more information, contact

Richard Newman

Lizzy Petersen

*River Styx*

3139A S. Grand Blvd., Suite 203

St. Louis, MO 63118

BigRiver@riverstyx.org

June 27, 2016

River Styx

**River Styx Kicks Off Its Forty-First Season!**

*River Styx's* reading series, *River Styx at the Tavern*, kicks off its 41<sup>st</sup> season with Poet Laureates Michael Castro and Eugene B. Redmond on **September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** The event takes place at the **Tavern of Fine Arts** on 313 Belt Avenue in the Central West End. Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$4 for seniors, students, and members. Live music will be provided by Tracy Andreotti and Henry Claude. Andreotti is a cellist and composer who is at home with both classic and creative improvised music. Claude is a freelance percussionist and composer.

**Michael Castro** is the current St. Louis Poet Laureate. He has published six books of poems, essays, and translations and has appeared in more than one hundred magazines and numerous anthologies, including *Voices from the Interior: The Missouri Poets* and *Voices Within the Ark: The Modern Jewish Poets*. He is also the author of *Interpreting the Indian: Twentieth Century Poets and the Native American*. His poetry collections include *The Man Who Looked Into Coltrane's Horn* (Caliban Press), *Human Rites* (Neshui Publishing), *How Things Stack Up* (Singing Bone Press), and *The Guide: Maimonides' Journey* (Shulamis Press). In 1975 Castro co-founded the literary organization River Styx. He pioneered several poetry radio shows; most recently Poetry Beat (1989-2003). In 2000 he was presented with The Guardian Angel of St. Louis Poetry Award by River Styx and The Warrior Poet Award in 2005 by Word In Motion.

**Eugene B. Redmond** is the Poet Laureate of East St. Louis, Emeritus Professor of English, Founding Editor of *Drumvoices Revue*, and former Chairman of the Creative Writing Committee at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. His groundbreaking *Drumvoices: The Mission of Afro-American Poetry, A Critical History* (Doubleday) established the credentials of African-American writers within the academic world. Redmond has published seven volumes of poetry, including his 1991 collection, *The Eye in the Ceiling: Selected Poems* (Writers & Readers), which

won an American Book Award, and *Arkansippi Memwars: Poetry, Prose & Chants*, 1962-2012 (Third World Press). Redmond has won an NEA Fellowship, an Outstanding Faculty Research Award, a Pushcart Prize, and served as a visiting professor at universities in the U.S., Africa, and Europe.

### About *River Styx*

Since 1975, *River Styx* has published an international, award-winning journal of the best poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, and art. The magazine has printed such luminaries as Nobel Laureates Derek Walcott, Wislawa Szymborska, and Czeslaw Milosz; Pulitzer Prize winners Yusef Komunyakaa, Stephen Dunn, Maxine Kumin, Lisel Mueller, Louis Simpson, and Ted Kooser; National Book Award Winners Marilyn Hacker, Howard Nemerov, Lisel Mueller, Lucille Clifton, and Robert Hass; and US Poets Laureate Howard Nemerov, Mona Van Duyn, Rita Dove, W. S. Merwin, William Stafford, Robert Hass, Donald Hall, Charles Simic, and Ted Kooser.

Other notable writers published in the magazine or featured in the reading series over the last two decades include Jorge Luis Borges, Ntozake Shange, William Stafford, Octavio Paz, Joseph Epstein, Allen Ginsberg, Margaret Atwood, Philip Levine, Marilyn Hacker, Terry McMillan, Sharon Olds, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Rodney Jones, Isabel Allende, Li-Young Lee, Alan Shapiro, Molly Peacock, and Albert Goldbarth.

*River Styx* continues to receive national acclaim, winning NEA awards and, on many occasions, St. Louis Poetry Center's Stanley Hanks Prize. Poems and stories have regularly been included in the *Best American Poetry* and *New Stories from the South* anthologies, *Best New Poets*, and *The Pushcart Prizes: Best of the Small Presses*. *River Styx* publishes three issues a year, sponsors annual contests for poetry and micro-fiction, and hosts a monthly reading series at the Tavern of Fine Arts in St. Louis in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council and with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

