

Poetry & Music

WITH **MICHAEL STILLWATER**

AWARD-WINNING SONGWRITER

FOUNDER, SONG WITHOUT BORDERS



“The poetry experience was an amazing one for the children. I have never seen them so excited and proud of their ideas – and the additional musical component was truly spectacular!”

- Katie Scully, Bacich School teacher



“You got me into poetry. I love writing. My family loved my poems. Thank you for letting us make our poems into songs!”

-Sammy Abernathy, Lynwood School, 4th grade



Program:

- **Setting:** Individual class or assembly of multiple classes
- **Program Length:** 45 minutes
- **Pre-Selection:** 5-7 poems
- **Reading:** Selected students read their original poems, often written in class during the weeks preceding Michael's visit.
- **Composing:** Michael spontaneously transforms each poem into song lyrics, performing and recording the music. (Class joins in choruses on some songs.)
- **Completion:** After the individual readings, Michael composes a new song from words and phrases contributed by all students; everyone sings together.
- **Recording:** Made available to school in following week via MP3 download

Background:

Since 1999, combining the poetry teaching of Bay Area poets with the songwriting skills of intuitive recording artist Michael Stillwater, classrooms resound with music and singing as children's original poems are translated into songs, delighting and inspiring both students, parents and teachers. Original sponsor: **California Poets in the Schools**

