



Thursday, December 4, 2014 Just ADD Sound #JAS celebrated some favorite poets. During the recent turbulence that have touched communities across the US and the world, the poets selected were chosen for their influence on communities, Art and the world at large. Several topics were touched upon by the co-producers SoulMedic and RescuePoetix™ with the discussion weaving through real time events and the relevance of the poems during the show.

Opening piece: #AmiriBaraka **Something in the Way of Things** (featuring the Roots)

About Amiri Baraka

Amiri Baraka (born Everett LeRoi Jones on October 7, 1934, in Newark, New Jersey) is a American writer of poetry, drama, essays, and music criticism.

The dramatist, novelist and poet, Amiri Baraka is one of the most respected and widely published African-American writers. With the beginning of Black Civil Rights Movements during the sixties, Baraka explored the anger of African-Americans and used his writings as a weapon against racism. Also, he advocated scientific socialism with his revolutionary inclined poems and aimed at creating aesthetic through them.

Amiri Baraka's writing career spans over nearly fifty years and has mostly focused on the subjects of Black Liberation and White Racism. Today, a number of well-known poems, short stories, plays and commentaries on society, music and literature are associated with his name. A few of the famous ones include, 'The Music: Reflection on Jazz and Blues', 'The Book of Monk' and 'New Music, New Poetry' among others.

The literary world respects the playwright and poet, Amiri Baraka as one of the revolutionary provocateurs of African-American poetry. He is counted among the few influential political activists who have spent most of their life time fighting for the rights of African-Americans.

Website: <http://www.amiribaraka.com/>



The next piece: **How Shall I Dance** by #GabirelaMistral, read by RescuePoetix™

About Gabriela Mistral

Gabriela Mistral, literary pseudonym of Lucila Godoy Alcayaga, was the first Spanish American author to receive the Nobel Prize in literature; as such, she will always be seen as a representative figure in the cultural history of the continent. One of the best-known Latin American poets of her time, Gabriela—as she was admiringly called all over the Hispanic world—embodied in her person, as much as in her works, the cultural values and traditions of a continent that had not been recognized until then with the most prestigious international literary prize.

The daughter of a poet, schoolteacher Lucila Godoy y Alcayaga began to write poetry after a love affair in her youth. Her first collection of poems 'Sonetos de la muerte' ('Sonnets of Death') was written in grief over the loved one's death, and published under the pen name Gabriela Mistral, taken from two of her favorite poets. Central themes in her poems are love, betrayal, a mother's love and nature. Gabriela Mistral was also engaged in social politics and made great efforts for education in Latin America.

Learn more: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/gabriela-mistral>



Next in the series of some of our favorite and revolutionary poets was #OctavioPaz. His piece **Brotherhood** as read by Diego

About Octavio Paz

Often nominated for the Nobel Prize in his lifetime, Mexican author Octavio Paz enjoyed a worldwide reputation as a master poet and essayist. Although Mexico figures prominently in Paz's work—one of his best-known books, *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, for example, is a comprehensive portrait of Mexican society—Los Angeles Times contributor Jascha Kessler called Paz "truly international." World Literature Today's Manuel Duran felt that Paz's "exploration of Mexican existential values permit[ted] him to open a door to an understanding of other countries and other cultures" and thus appeal to readers of diverse backgrounds. "What began as a slow, almost microscopic examination of self and of a single cultural tradition widens unexpectedly," Duran continued, "becoming universal without sacrificing its unique characteristic." Paz won the Nobel Prize in 1990, and died eight years later at the age of 84. His passing was mourned as the end of an era for Mexico. According to his obituary in *Americas*, "Paz's literary career helped to define modern poetry and the Mexican personality."

Learn more: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/octavio-paz>

From classic to modern – readings to performances; one of the poets that has had great influence and inspiration within her own community and the music community, #UrsulaRucker, joined forces with another of our favorite artists for **WHEN** (Anthony Nicholson & Jaidene Veda ft URSULA RUCKER)

About Ursula Rucker

As a poet and performance artist, Ursula Rucker has enchanted critics and fans across the globe with her diverse repertoire, captivating vocals and accessible poetic verse.



Born and raised in Philadelphia, she began documenting her observations of the world when she was just a girl. A graduate of Temple University's journalism program, Ursula kept her creative writing as a prized, personal possession until she was prepared to share with the world. In 1994, she introduced an open-mic night audience at Philadelphia's Zanzibar Blue to the beauty and urgency of her poetry.

Ursula Rucker believes that art and poetry are catalysts for change. Her mission and calling is to heal herself, the planet, and its people through her art. While she sees the world as her community, she pays particular attention to the world of women, indigenous/diasporic people, and sufferers of injustice. Her poetry tells the stories of struggle, love, womanhood, peace, anger, injustice, and spirituality. As an artist who has performed in many continents, countries, classrooms, and community centers, Ursula sees herself as an ambassador of culture, socio-political issues, truth, and love.

Learn more: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursula_Rucker

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/ursularucker>

Through the journey of love, revolution, rebellion and life, #JAS continued with #PabloNeruda and **Poema 20**

About Pablo Neruda

Pablo Neruda was the pen name and, later, legal name of the Chilean poet-diplomat and politician Neftali Ricardo Reyes Basoalto (July 12, 1904 – September 23, 1972). He derived his pen name from the Czech poet [[Jan Ne Pablo Neruda won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Neruda became known as a poet while he was still a teenager. He wrote in a variety of styles, including surrealist poems, historical epics, overtly political manifestos, a prose



autobiography, and erotically charged love poems such as the ones in his collection *Twenty Love Poems and a Song of Despair* (1924). He often wrote in green ink, which was his personal symbol for desire and hope.

Learn more: <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/pablo-neruda>

Influential on many levels, global artists, such as the next poet, #MondayMichiru are diverse in their Art and touch lives through word and song. **Starsuite** is a piece that explores revolution of self

About Monday Michiru

Japanese American actress, singer, and songwriter whose music encompasses and fuses a wide variety of genres including jazz, dance, pop, and soul. She is arguably best known for being a pioneer of the acid jazz movement in Japan in the early 1990's yet she has created her own unique style of music that transcends traditional definitions of the aforementioned genres.

Monday was born in Tokyo, Japan to jazz pianist Toshiko Akiyoshi and the late jazz saxophonist Charlie Mariano. At an early age, she expressed an interest in music; she studied modern dance and ballet from age eight, and the classical flute for eight years. It wasn't until she went to the Interlochen Arts Academy that she discovered her true passion of singing.

self-composed and produced solo work, and also became a featured singer/songwriter for many other groups and artists including Basement Jaxx (*Always Be There*), Mondo Grosso, DJ Krush, and numerous others. Since her debut, she has released over twelve albums, many compilations and remix projects, and numerous singles. More recently her releases have been from the worldwide award-winning internet label ArtistShare, and she continues to record for various labels in Japan.



Learn more: <http://www.mondaymichiru.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mondaymichirumusic>

From one end of the world to the other, Artists from every background have an effect on how we relate to Art. #LemonAndersen takes Edgar Allan Poe's classic piece a twist and gives us Edgar's Bird

About Lemon Andersen

Poet and actor, born in the projects of Brooklyn, New York, to a Puerto Rican mother and Norwegian father who met in a methadone clinic. They split up when he was very young and both died of AIDS.

Lemon (born Andrew) Andersen had a harsh early life and ended up with a long conviction list, eventually serving time in Rikers Prison. He started writing poetry there, and went on to win a Tony award for his starring role in Def Poetry on Broadway. His on-stage memoir, 'County of Kings', has also garnered critical acclaim.

Learn more: <http://brooklynpoets.org/poet/lemon-andersen/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LemonAndersen>



One of the most incredibly influential, strong voices in poetry is the incomparable #MayaAngelou She speaks of strength, vulnerability and self-awareness, reminding us in her featured piece that **And Still I Rise**

About Maya Angelou

Born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, writer and civil rights activist Maya Angelou is known for her 1969 memoir, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which made literary history as the first nonfiction best-seller by an African-American woman. In 1971, Angelou published the Pulitzer Prize-nominated poetry collection *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Die*. She later wrote the poem "On the Pulse of Morning"—one of her most famous works—which she recited at President Bill Clinton's inauguration in 1993. Angelou received several honors throughout her career, including two NAACP Image Awards in the outstanding literary work (nonfiction) category, in 2005 and 2009. She died on May 28, 2014.

Learn more: <http://mayaangelou.com/>

The greatest revolutionary movement within us and throughout the world is love. The closing piece celebrating our favorite poets **Is this Real?** explores the dynamic of discovering love and blossoming growth between open hearts, minds and spirits.

About Oveous Maximus

OVEOUS embodies brilliant lyricism with a powerful performance. Perhaps his greatest strength is that he was able to turn his brother's suicide into a global mission for mental healing and positive uplifting of all people he comes across with. He earned a standing ovation on HBO Def Jam and has been a winner multiple times on "Showtime at the



Apollo". He also starred in the film SP!T narrated by Rosario Dawson. And his 2009 hit song "Mirror Dance" with Osunlade still rocks the core of your soul on the dance floor. Currently he just released a new album titled "KILL YOUR MYTH" a rap music explosion of life, culture, and sound. OVEOUS is a Rapper, Vocalist, & Producer. A writer and recording artist, who makes music to help your heart, beat. So don't miss the beat!

Learn more: <http://www.oveous.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OveousMaximus>

Available for download: <http://oveous.bandcamp.com/album/the-iambic-moment>

Check out the podcast: <http://www.mixcloud.com/RescuePoetix2/just-add-sound-celebrating-some-of-our-favorite-poets/>