

PRESS RELEASE

# CANTO MUNDO

For Immediate Release  
May TK, 2018  
New York, NY

## **CantoMundo Hosts 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Latinx Poetry Workshop and Public Readings at Columbia University**

DATES: Friday, June 22, 2018 and Saturday, June 23, 2018

TIMES: 8-10 pm, both nights

SITE: Diana Center Event Oval, Barnard College

Nationally recognized, award-winning poets Daniel Borzutzky and Ada Limón will read from their work on Friday, June 22, 2018 and Saturday, June 23, 2018, respectively, at Columbia University. The readings are free and open to the public.

Both poets are known not only for their writing, but also for their community work locally and nationally.

A total of 30 other Latina/o poets from across the country will join Borzutzky and Limón as a celebration of CantoMundo, the only national master level poetry workshop for Latino poets in the United States. Acclaimed poet and performer Douglas Kearney will give the CantoMundo keynote speech.

CantoMundo founders Deborah Paredez, Associate Professor in Writing and Ethnic Studies at Columbia, and Celeste Mendoza (Barnard '97) said, "This marks CantoMundo's second year at Columbia, where we will continue our nine-year-long tradition of supporting and showcasing Latino poets. We are especially excited to join in the long-standing tradition of Latina/o communities who have made New York City a vibrant center for arts and culture."

Participants include Diannely Antigua, John Manuel Arias, Oliver Baez Bendorf, Sara Borjas, MK Chavez, Cristina Correa, Joshua Escobar, Lauren Espinoza, Malcolm Friend, Suzi F. Garcia, Ysabel Y. Gonzalez, Darrel Alejandro Holnes, Monica Jimenez, Ricardo Maldonado, Carlo Matos, Lara Mimosa Montes, Michelle Moncayo, Yesenia Montilla, paulA Neves, Gerardo Pacheco Matus, Jose Rodriguez, Leslie Sainz, Raquel Salas Rivera, Ruth Sanabria, Cintia Santana, Analicia Sotelo, Norma Liliana Valdez, Dan Vera and Rich Villar.

Winner of the 2016 National Book Award for Poetry for his collection *The Performance of Becoming Human*, Daniel Borzutzky is a Chilean-American writer and translator living in Chicago. His other poetry books are *In the Murmurs of the Rotten Carcass Economy*, *The Book of Interfering Bodies*, *The Ecstasy of Capitulation* and the chapbook *Failure in the Imagination*. *Lake Michigan* is forthcoming from University of Pittsburgh Press in 2018. He has published one collection of fiction, *Arbitrary Tales*. His books of translation include *Song for his Disappeared Love* by Raul Zurita and *Port Trakl* by Jaime Luis Huenun.

Ada Limón is the author of five books of poetry, including *Bright Dead Things*, which was a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Poetry, the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and the 2016 National Book Critics Circle Award, and named one of the Top 10 Poetry Books of the Year by the *New York Times*. Her other books include *Lucky Wreck*, *This Big Fake World* and *Sharks in the Rivers*. She serves on the faculty of Queens University of Charlotte, Low Residency MFA program in North Carolina and the 24 Pearl Street online program for the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center. She also works as a freelance writer in Lexington, Kentucky. Her new collection, *The Carrying*, will be released by Milkweed Editions in August, 2018.

CantoMundo is sponsored by the Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Columbia, the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Barnard and the Office of the Dean of Social Science in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Columbia.

**For more information, please contact Celeste Mendoza at [c.mendoza@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:c.mendoza@austin.utexas.edu), Deborah Paredez at [d.paredez@columbia.edu](mailto:d.paredez@columbia.edu) and Carmen Gimenez Smith at [carmens@vt.edu](mailto:carmens@vt.edu).**

## **ABOUT CANTOMUNDO**

In the summer of 2009, Deborah Paredez joined fellow Tejana/o poets Norma E. Cantú, Celeste Mendoza, Pablo Miguel Martínez and Carmen Tafolla around Norma's kitchen table and dreamed of a world where Latina/o poets could regularly gather in a community of creative inspiration and mutual support. They dreamed of and then set about building a "song-world," a canto-mundo, and by the next summer they were hosting their first writing retreat for Latina/o poets.

CantoMundo is a national organization that cultivates a community of Latina/o poets through workshops, symposia and public readings. Founded in 2009, CantoMundo hosts an annual poetry workshop for Latina/o poets that provides a space for the creation, documentation and critical analysis of Latina/o poetry.

Inspired by Cave Canem and Kundiman (organizations for African American and Asian American poets), CantoMundo issues a national call for applications every year and selects new fellows who, once accepted, are eligible to return to the annual writing retreat up to three times, thereby fostering long-term support and collaboration. They join returning fellows who are fulfilling their three-year commitment and who provide mentorship and guidance to the incoming fellows. Over the last eight years, CantoMundo has accepted over 100 renowned Latinx poets into the fellowship program.

CantoMundo's first gathering convened in 2010 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. From 2011 to 2016, the workshops were held at the University of Texas at Austin. CantoMundo has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Academy of American Poets, the University of Texas's Center for Mexican American Studies and Columbia University's Division of Arts and Sciences.

Past faculty and fellows include National Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera and other award-winning poets such as Aracelis Girmay, Willie Perdomo, Lorna Dee Cervantes, Rafael Campo, Naomi Ayala, Benjamin Alire Saenz, Demetria Martinez, Roberto Tejada, Sandra Maria Estevez, Martín Espada, Carmen Giménez Smith, Eduardo Corral, Yesenia Montilla, José Rodríguez, Rosebud Ben-Oni and Javier Zamora.

In addition to the retreat, CantoMundo manages a Publication Prize in partnership with the University of Arkansas Press, coordinates and co-sponsors poetry readings across the country and is a member of the Poetry Coalition, a national group of poetry organizations working together to promote the value poets bring to our culture and the important contribution poetry makes in the lives of people of all ages and backgrounds.

CantoMundo is currently based at Columbia University in New York City, where it will host the 2019 CantoMundo Workshop, June 21-24, 2018.

**CANTOMUNDO2018**

**AdaLimón &  
DanielBorzutzky &  
DouglasKearney**

**June 21-24, 2018  
Columbia University  
New York, NY**

**A NATIONAL POETRY WORKSHOP  
DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING AND DEVELOPING  
LATINX POETS & POETRY  
[WWW.CANTOMUNDO.ORG](http://WWW.CANTOMUNDO.ORG)**

Visuals for NEXT year (2019):

