

**FROM: The Cathedral of St. John the Divine**

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CALENDAR LISTING

**CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE CELEBRATES  
JOHN BERRYMAN WITH INDUCTION INTO THE AMERICAN POETS CORNER**

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The Cathedral of St. John the Divine will honor the legacy of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and scholar John Berryman (1914-1972) with his induction into its **American Poets Corner** on **Sunday, November 3, from 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM, followed by a celebration immediately afterwards, at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, located at 1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112<sup>th</sup> Street), Manhattan.**

Berryman's formal induction will take place during the traditional Evensong service sung by the Cathedral Choir. Following the ceremony, **Marilyn Nelson**, the Cathedral's Poet in Residence, will be joined by award-winning authors and scholars to pay tribute to Berryman's life and contributions to American literature.

Born John Allyn Smith, Jr., in Oklahoma in 1914, Berryman is best known for his masterpiece *The Dream Songs*, which began as a sequence of sonnets, *77 Dream Songs*, published in 1964 and awarded the 1965 Pulitzer Prize for poetry. Considered to be a key figure in the "Confessional" poetry movement, Berryman incorporated elements of his own life and painful personal struggles in *The Dream Songs* and in many of his other works. With his suicide in 1972, Berryman left behind not only a groundbreaking – and often heart-breaking – body of work, but also a cadre of students who became some of the most important poets of the last 40 years. Berryman's intelligence, erudition and devotion to poetry inspired a generation and earned him a place in literary history.

The American Poets Corner, created in 1984 to memorialize and celebrate American writers, is modeled after a similar alcove at Westminster Abbey in London. Previous inductees include Emily Dickinson, E.E. Cummings, Tennessee Williams, James Baldwin and last year's honoree, Katherine Anne Porter. The American Poets Corner and Cathedral poetry events have become an integral part of the literary landscape of New York. Visitors come to the Poets Corner to remember the authors they've long loved and to discover others, whose works they may not have read.

**DATE:** Sunday, November 3  
**TIME:** Evensong service: 4:00 – 5:00 PM  
Celebration to follow  
**PLACE:** The Cathedral of St. John the Divine  
1047 Amsterdam Avenue (at 112<sup>th</sup> Street)  
Manhattan

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