

2013 VCBF HAIKU INVITATIONAL CONTEST OPENS TODAY CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2012 WINNERS

VANCOUVER, BC (MARCH 7, 2013) – The *Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival's* (VCBF) 2013 *Haiku Invitational* opens today with the announcement of the 2012 winners (from Australia, Romania, Ontario, New York and Vancouver) and a wide array of new haiku programming for 2013.

The Invitational invites everyone from around the world to submit up to two poems within 17 syllables regarding the beautiful pink and white cherry blossoms. Winners will be announced in five categories: Best BC, Canada, United States, International and Youth haiku. Since 2006 the Invitational has attracted some 6,000 submissions from 39 countries. The deadline for haiku submissions is June 3, 2013.

The 2012 winners include:

Best BC Haiku:	Marianne Baharustani (Vancouver)
Best Youth Haiku:	Cristina Ailoei, 14 (Botosani, Romania)
Best Canada Haiku:	Lin Geary (Paris, Ontario)
Best International Haiku:	David Terelinck (Pyrmont, Australia)
Best United States Haiku	Michele L. Harvey (Hamilton, New York)

The winning poems (included at the end of this release) are celebrated on the Festival website, onboard TransLink buses during March and April, published in the *Haiku Canada* newsletter and *Ripples*. In addition, Christopher Gaze will read them at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Tea & Trumpets Concert on Thursday, April 25 (2pm concert). On the Festival website, another 100 haiku are recognized in the Sakura Award and Honorable Mentions categories (www.vcbf.ca).

With the *Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival* banners now flying on the Burrard Bridge and cherry blossoms slowly beginning to come out across the city, it's time to be inspired by the cherry tree to write your haiku for submission to the *Haiku Invitational* via the VCBF website.

To quote the famous Japanese haiku poet, Basho, "Many many things they call to mind these cherry blossoms." The Festival wants to know what comes to your mind when you think about cherry blossoms.

Judging the Invitational will be Haiku Canada President, Terry Ann Carter, an internationally recognized as an accomplished haiku and tanka poet who says she "can hardly wait to read the poems from all corners of the world!" She is author of five poetry collections and four haiku chapbooks and has won awards for her Japanese literary forms.

To learn how to perfect your haiku for submission to the *Haiku Invitational*, come to *Hands on Haiku at Sakura Days Japan Fair* at VanDusen Botanical Garden on April 6 & 7. Terry Ann Carter will demonstrate "one of a kind" small book-making on the basic folds for flutter books, accordion books and scroll books. Haiku expert, Michael Dylan Welch will lead a guided haiku walk (Ginko) through the gardens at VanDusen to inspire the writing of haiku.

The Festival and the Vancouver Public Library will also co- present **Haiku Workshop** with Michael Dylan Welch at the central branch at 6:30 pm on April 22. Participants will learn the myths and realities of haiku poetry in English. Is it really supposed to be 5-7-5? Or is there more to it than that?

Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd. has made it possible for the festival to present additional haiku programming this year, including an engaging installation by Bing Thom Architects at the Festival kick-off on April 4th inside Burrard SkyTrain Station. **Haiku Tracking** gives the balloon a chance to tell its story through a haiku when people carry away a helium balloon with them on their personal journey and record the final destination of the haiku on a webpage. Like the haiku, **Haiku Tracking** captures those fleeting moments in time.

The 2013 VCBF also features:

- the new **World Umbrella Dance**, choreographed by Shiamak Davar, the choreographer of TOIFA
- Tojo's new **SakuraB** Bento Box Lunch
- **Sakura Days Japan Fair**
- a Cherry Blossom Ukulele Celebration with 50 ukulele
- **Tree Talks and Walks**
- **Cherry Scouting**
- **Plein-Air Blossom Painting**, and
- **Bike the Blossoms**

To plan your picnic under the blossoms with family and friends, visit the Festival's online [Cherry Blossom Viewing Google Map](#) , where you'll find more than one thousand displays of cherry trees in West Vancouver, Delta, New Westminster, Burnaby, Langley, North Vancouver and Richmond.

The **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** provides a happy occasion to bring us all together outside in our parks and streets and boulevards lined with cherry trees to enjoy this awe-inspiring event. Cherry blossom viewing has become a springtime tradition in our city now as people marvel as 55 different varieties come into blossom in our city.

About the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival Society:

The **Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival** is a charitable not-for-profit organization with the objective to sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage, while educating and actively engaging diverse communities in local arts and culture to celebrate the fragile beauty of the iconic cherry blossom.

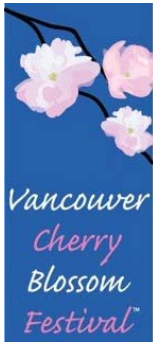
For photos, more info and/or private haiku, dance or plein-air painting lessons contact:

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www.facebook.com/VancouverCherryBlossomFestival
www.twitter.com/OfficialVCBF
<http://vcfblog.wordpress.com/>



BACKGROUND: THE HAIKU INVITATIONAL

inspired by the cherry tree

What is a haiku?

A haiku is a poem that captures a scene or experience in just a few words, suggesting the depth and intensity of the moment. Haiku use concrete images to capture this moment of intuition. Above all, haiku try to imply the emotion of the poet's experience without stating it.

What are some of the basics of writing haiku?

Haiku are plain-speaking poems where every word counts. Try to avoid using abstract or conceptual words. Use sensory images to convey experience about sights, sounds, smells or tastes.

Does a haiku have to have 17 syllables?

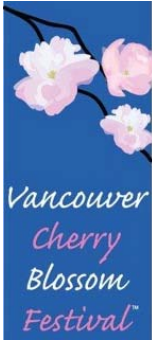
In Japan, the haiku is traditionally written in a single vertical line with sound symbols arranged in a 5-7-5 rhythm, but Japanese words tend to be longer than their English counterparts, so literal translations end up as English poems with fewer than 17 syllables. While some haiku poets writing in English do follow the 5-7-5 pattern with wonderful results, most view the haiku as a poem in three lines of 17 or fewer syllables.

What else should I know about the form of a haiku?

Most haiku contain a kigo, or a word or short phrase that places their poem in a season of the year. For example, if you use the word "daffodil," the reader will know you are describing a scene in spring. The kigo links a haiku to the deeper rhythms of nature. In addition, many haiku have two parts, separated by a word or punctuation mark to create tension and resolution, or an unstated relationship between two images.

Submission deadline:

The deadline for haiku submissions is **June 3, 2013**. For more information on submitting your haiku, visit <http://www.vcbf.ca>.



Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival 2012 Haiku Invitational Winners

Best British Columbia Poem

Marianne Baharustani (Vancouver, BC)

alone at the airport
a cherry blossom
on my suitcase

Best Youth Poem

Cristina Ailoei, 14 (Botosani, Romania)

old cherry tree—
a spider weaves its cobweb
between two flowers

Best Canada Haiku

Lin Geary (Paris, Ontario)

morning tai chi—
all the prams
slowly turning pink

Best International Haiku

David Terelinck (Pymont, Australia)

school for the blind
every fingertip sees
a different pink

Best United States Haiku

Michele L. Harvey (Hamilton, New York)

cherry petals falling
the pond's oldest koi
slowly surfaces