



The University of Connecticut's
English Department



in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presents

The 48th Annual
Wallace Stevens Poetry Program
featuring
August Kleinzahler

Sponsored with The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.
and The Hartford Friends and Enemies of Wallace Stevens

Tuesday, April 19, 8 p.m.

Konover Auditorium of the Dodd Center
UConn, Storrs

Wednesday, April 20, 11 a.m.

Classical Magnet School
85 Woodland Street, Hartford

Both readings are free and open to the public

Poetics

I have loved the air outside Shop-Rite Liquor
on summer evenings
better than the Marin hills at dusk
lavender and gold
stretching miles to the sea.

At the junction, up from the synagogue
a weeknight, necessarily
and with my father ---
a sale on German beer.

Air full of living dust:
bus exhaust, airborne grains of pizza crust
wounded crystals
appearing, disappearing
among streetlights and unsuccessful neon.

--from *Sleeping It Off in Rapid City*



ABOUT AUGUST KLEINZAHLER

Kleinzahler is the author of ten books of poetry, including *The Strange Hours Travelers Keep* (2004), winner of the International Griffin Poetry Prize; *Green Sees Things in Waves* (1999); and *Red Sauce, Whiskey and Snow* (1995). He has been honored with a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation, the Lila Acheson-Reader's Digest Award for Poetry, an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and a Berlin Prize Fellowship. His work has been praised by many fellow writers, including Allen Ginsberg, who remarked: "August Kleinzahler's verse line is always precise, concrete, intelligent and rare—

that quality of 'chiseled' verse memorable in Basil Bunting's and Ezra Pound's work. [He is] a loner, a genius."

POETRY PROGRAM INFORMATION

The Wallace Stevens Poetry Program began in 1964 with funding from The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., to honor the poet Wallace Stevens, a former company executive. The Program's mission is to promote poetry at the University of Connecticut and in the Hartford area by offering two poetry readings each spring — one on the Storrs campus, the other in the city — by a poet of national or international reputation. Each year we invite students and teachers from Hartford area high schools to attend the city poetry reading. Here, student winners of a poetry contest sponsored by the Friends & Enemies of Wallace Stevens present their poems, followed by the guest poet's reading. The Wallace Stevens Poetry Program also promotes poetry at UConn by holding an annual all-campus poetry contest for UConn students.

WALLACE STEVENS

Was born in Reading, Pennsylvania on October 2nd, 1879 and died in Hartford, Connecticut on August 2, 1955. He was educated at Harvard and the New York Law School. *Harmonium*, Stevens's first volume of poems, was published in 1923, followed by *Ideas of Order* (1936), *The Man with the Blue Guitar* (1937), *Parts of a World* (1942), *Transport to Summer* (1947), *The Auroras of Autumn* (1950), *The Necessary Angel* (1951), *The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens* (1954), and *Opus Posthumous* (1957). A selection of his letters was published in 1966. Wallace Stevens was awarded the Bollingen Prize for Poetry in 1949. In 1951 he won the

National Book Award for *The Auroras of Autumn*; he won it a second time in 1955 for his *Collected Poems*, which was also awarded the Pulitzer Prize that year. From 1916 until his death, Wallace Stevens lived with his wife and daughter in Hartford. He worked at The Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company, where he became vice-president in 1934.

Links:

The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., www.thehartford.com

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, www.clas.uconn.edu

The Friends & Enemies of Wallace Stevens www.stevenspoetry.org

PAST WALLACE STEVENS POETRY PROGRAM POETS

1964 Marianne Moore	1985 Philip Levine	2006 Gjertrud Schnackenberg
1965 Richard Eberhart	1986 Dennis Brutus	2007 Adam Zagajewski
1966 John Crowe Ransom	1987 Galway Kinnell	2008 Alice Fulton
1967 Robert Lowell	1988 Stanley Kunitz	2009 Heather McHugh
1968 John Berryman	1989 Gary Snyder	2010 Charles Simic
1969 Stephen Spender	1990 Robert Bly	
1970 Allen Ginsberg	1991 June Jordan	
1971 Louis Zukofsky	1992 W.S. Merwin	
1972 Robert Duncan	1993 Amiri Baraka	
1973 Daniel Berrigan	1994 Sharon Olds	
1974 Anne Sexton	1995 Dave Smith	

1975 Adrienne Rich	1996 Carolyn Forché
1976 John Malcolm Brinnin	1997 Louise Glück
1977 Richard Wilbur	1998 Donald Hall
1978 Elizabeth Bishop	1999 Frank Bidart
1979 James Merrill	2000 Mark Doty
1980 Denise Levertov	2001 Yusef Komunyakaa
1981 Anthony Hecht	2002 C.K. Williams
1982 Seamus Heaney	2003 Adrienne Rich
1983 Derek Walcott	2004 Ellen Bryant Voigt
1984 John Ashbery	2005 Robert Hass