

## Balticon 47 Poetry Contest Winners

### The Music of the Stars

The music of the stars is  
 so very faint it is drowned  
 by the sounds of the city,  
  
 the steady drone of traffic,  
 the whine of sirens wailing  
 through day and night,  
  
 the clamor of crowds and  
 the hubbub of the media.  
 The music of the stars is  
  
 so very faint it is lost  
 in the static of the rain,  
 the timbres of the wind  
  
 battling against the trees,  
 in the rhythm of waves  
 consuming the shore.  
  
 The music of the stars is  
 so very faint, yet there  
 remain those of a certain  
  
 mind and heart who listen  
 hard enough to hear it,  
 never completely sure  
  
 what kind of music it is,  
 yet convinced it is the  
 one they must dance to.

Bruce Boston  
 1st Place – © 2013  
 Ocala, FL

### The Lottery, Revisited

This time, I don't attend. I wait at  
 my window as Widow Jamison appears,  
 replete in bombazine. She struts to  
 the platform, ready to draw a name.  
  
 Her sons had been unlucky in the draw;  
 seven years she watched as each was  
 stoned to death, yet she shed not one tear.  
 But she still does her hair a certain way  
 for attendance at another turn of chance,  
 the lottery in our small New England town.  
  
 My daughters lie within the ground,  
 their bruised bodies turned to bones.  
 Queen of the roost, she thinks she is,  
 standing so proud in that deadly pulpit.  
  
 I've only one left to offer for the draw—  
 a son, while hers rot in their graves.  
 But that's not what angers me the most.  
 Had I no faith, I'd cast the first stone,  
 bury it deep into her pious temple.  
  
 My son kisses me before he leaves to join  
 the gathered crowd, a stone in his hand.

Marge Simon  
 3rd Place – © 2013  
 Ocala, FL

### Honorable Mentions

<b>Crab Nebula</b>	<b>Salem Witch House</b>
<b>AC Edwards</b>	<b>Leah Angstman</b>
<i>Tappahannock, VA</i>	<i>Palo Alto, CA</i>

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Complete Poetry Contest rules, previous  
 winners, and entry form can be found at:  
[www.bsfs.org/bsfspoetry.htm](http://www.bsfs.org/bsfspoetry.htm).

## Drenched in Light

Stars exploding in dark skies  
like fireworks destroying gaseous material  
unreachable heights that climb

taller than any mountains topped with  
snow and ice reflecting sunlight from the  
heavens above. Grass swaying in  
unison not like the oceans

drifting apart with each gentle pull  
from gravity, the cooing,  
seductive element of surprise  
that hides underground in the shadows

and is not afraid to tempt stray  
occurrences. Dragging away those soaking in sunlight,  
and drowning them in complete darkness that even the stars  
couldn't destroy.

Kadie Bennis  
2nd Place – © 2013  
Woodbridge VA

### About the Winning Poets

**Bruce Boston** (*First Place*)—Bruce Boston's poetry has appeared in hundreds of publications and received numerous awards. He is the author of fifty books and chapbooks.

**Kadie Bennis** (*Second Place*)—I am a high school senior in the creative writing program at my school. I enjoy writing poetry and fiction. I've been to a variety of different writing camps and classes.

**Marge Simon** (*Third Place*)—Marge Simon is a past president of the SFPA and editor of *Star\*Line*. A former 1995 Best Long Poem Rhysling winner, she won the Bram Stoker Award™ for Superior achievement in poetry, 2008, the *Strange Horizons* Readers Award, 2010, and the SFPA Dwarf Stars Award for short poetry, 2012. She does other stuff too, like write & publish short fictions and artify for various genre publications and herself, for sanity's sake.

