



***MEDIA ALERT \*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\* MEDIA ALERT***

**PAIRINGS AT TED'S SERVES AS FINALE  
OF NATIONAL POETRY MONTH WITH O, MIAMI**

***Collaboration with Piano Slam Helps Raise Arts Awareness***

**WHAT:** To the finger snappers and literati, this is not your typical poetry night. Pairings at Ted's is staging a lyrical intervention with **O, Miami**, featuring spoken word and readings by YoungArts winners in writing **Antwon Funches** (2016), **Ashley Gong** (2016), **Simbaa Gordon** (2016), and **Christell Roach** (2015); special guests from **Piano Slam**; and emcee **Deborah Magdalena**.

Roach, who has been published in *Figment Literary Magazine*, *Dog Eat Cow Magazine* and the *Postscript Journal*, has traveled throughout the country as a spoken word artist with Tigertail WordSpeak. Hailing from Chicago, Funches is the defending Louder Than A Bomb National Slam Winner, and Individual Champion of the Walgreens Expression Challenge. He said, "I've only begun my role as a leader." Gong's poetry has led her to the New York City Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, the Aspen Ideas Festival, and the U.S. Department of Education Gallery, among many other opportunities, and joins Pairings at Ted's from Connecticut. And Gordon, a local spoken word artist, was most recently quoted in the *Miami Times* about his work: "It's what life throws at me, and it's usually rocks and diamonds, and it hurts."

YoungArts' artistic supper club concept pairs world-class performances with a themed culinary experience by STARR Catering Group. The capstone of National Poetry Month, this event is carrying the torch with O, Miami from the page to the soapbox.

**WHEN:** Friday, April 29 and Saturday, April 30  
Doors open and reservations available as early as 7:00 p.m.  
Performance begins at 8:30 p.m.

**COST:** General admission priced at \$35 pp. open, plus min. \$25 food and beverage; use code YA\_POETRY for \$10 tickets.

The Pairings at Ted's show and prix fixe dinner package includes a three-course menu with two choices of appetizers, entrées and an assortment of desserts at \$95 pp. (beverage, tax and gratuity not included).

Click [HERE](#) for tickets.

**MORE INFO:** <http://www.youngarts.org/teds>



2016 YoungArts Winner Simbaa Gordon, 2015 YoungArts alumna Christell Roach

### **About the National YoungArts Foundation**

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and nurture the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts, and assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development. Through a wide range of annual programs, regular performances, and partnerships with some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, YoungArts aspires to create a strong community of alumni and a platform for a lifetime of encouragement, opportunity and support.

YoungArts' signature program is an application-based award for emerging artists ages 15 – 18 or in grades 10 – 12 from across the United States. Selected from a pool of more than an average of 11,000 applications (in 2015, the organization received a record-breaking number of more than 12,000 applications), YoungArts Winners receive valuable support, including financial awards of up to \$10,000, professional development and educational experiences working with renowned mentors—such as Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Frank Gehry, Jeff Koons, Wynton Marsalis, Robert Redford, Rebecca Walker and Bruce Weber—and performance and exhibition opportunities at some of the nation's leading cultural institutions, including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Washington, D.C.), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), The Museum of Modern Art (New York) and New World Center (Miami). Additionally, YoungArts Winners are eligible for nomination as a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students who exemplify academic and artistic excellence.

YoungArts Winners also become part of a thousands-strong alumni network of artists, which offers them additional professional opportunities throughout their careers. YoungArts alumni who have gone on to become leaders in their fields include actresses Anna Gunn, Viola Davis, Zuzanna Szadkowski and Kerry Washington; Broadway stars Tony Yazbeck, Raúl Esparza, Andrew Rannells and Billy Porter; recording artists Josh Groban, Chris Young and Judith Hill; Metropolitan Opera star Eric Owens; musicians Terence Blanchard, Gerald Clayton and Jennifer Koh; choreographer Desmond Richardson and Camille A. Brown; visual artists Daniel Arsham and Hernan Bas; internationally acclaimed multimedia artist Doug Aitken; television writer, producer, and director Jenji Kohan; *New York Times* bestselling author Sam Lipsyte; and Academy Award winning filmmaker Doug Blush.

For more information, visit [youngarts.org](http://youngarts.org), [facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation](https://facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation) or [twitter.com/YoungArts](https://twitter.com/YoungArts). To watch a brief video about YoungArts, click [here](#).