

# New Letters

MAGAZINE \* ON THE AIR \* OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

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## ***NEW LETTERS ON THE AIR* IS A FINALIST FOR AN INTERNATIONAL RADIO AWARD**

*New Letters on the Air* is among 10 finalists in the Culture and the Arts category for the 2010 New York Festivals International Radio Programming Awards, which were announced on August 11. Other finalists include programs from BBC Radio 4, RTE Radio 1 (Ireland), and Radio Television Hong Kong. The winner of the competition will be announced by September.

Producer/host Angela Elam and assistant producer Dennis Conrow reviewed recent past productions of *New Letters on the Air*, and decided to submit the anthology program "The Cruellest Month," produced with assistance from technical editor Annie Walsh and UMKC work study student, Max Mosley. Aired in April 2010 to kick off National Poetry Month, the program features 10 poets reading their work, including five former United States poets laureates—Billy Collins, Charles Simic, Rita Dove, Donald Hall, and Kay Ryan—and other prize-winning poets, Elizabeth Alexander, Alberto Rios, Claudia Emerson, Randall Mann, and Debra Marquart. Loosely centered on various types of love, the program reflects complicated lives with a mixture of humor, sensuality, and irony.

All of the poems were pulled from previous interview shows with each of the poets. More of the *New Letters on the Air* archive programs are becoming accessible, thanks a Save America's Treasures grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Park Service. *New Letters* is currently working with Marr Sound Archives at the University of Missouri-Kansas City to digitize the archives that go back to the radio show's beginning in 1977.

An independent production of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, *New Letters on the Air* is distributed through the Public Radio Satellite System and the Public Radio Exchange, and can be heard on public radio stations throughout the country. It is the radio affiliate of the literary magazine *New Letters* and also receives support from the UMKC Communication Studies Department and the Missouri Arts Council.