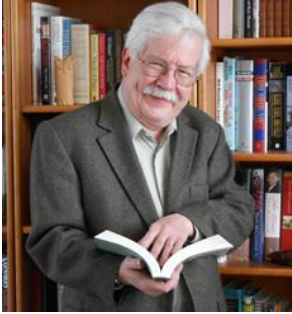


## Muse & Music Bios



**Jared Smith** — Jared Smith is the author of thirteen volumes of poetry including his *Collected Poems: 1971-2011*; multimedia productions based on his poetry in New York and Chicago; two CDs; and numerous publications in the applied sciences. His poems, essays, and literary commentary have appeared in hundreds of publications in the U.S., Europe, and China. Jared's latest work is part of a poetic collaboration with Kyle Laws from Pueblo, Colorado, and is called, *This Town* (Liquid Light Press, 2017).



**Megan E. Freeman** — Megan E. Freeman writes poetry and fiction. She has been published in poetry anthologies, literary and educational journals, including *Turtle Island Quarterly*, *Literary Mama*, *Green Fuse Poetic Arts*, and *English Journal*. Composer Steven Sametz selected her poem, "Music's Music", as the text for a commission by the Los Angeles Master Chorale, which premiered at Disney Concert Hall. Her chapbook, *Lessons on Sleeping Alone*, (Liquid Light Press, 2015) cuts to essence of what it means to be human.



**M. D. Friedman** — M. D. Friedman is an award-winning poet, the author of five books of poetry, the founder of the popular Internet Poets' Cooperative and the executive editor of Liquid Light Press. He often incorporates diverse musical elements such as blues harmonica, Theremin, kalimba and Native American Flute into his spoken word performances.



Alex Bernat is a preschool dropout, turned elementary school dropout, turned middle school dropout, turned high school dropout, turned college dropout, who loves to learn more than anything else. He plays improvisational harp using skills he gained studying with the International Harp Therapy Program, and loves to share his poetry after it helped him heal from a concussion that initially lost him his ability to write.