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## Finding a Common Soundtrack: Quincy College and PCCF Inmates to Participate in Poetry in Music Event

*November 6th Music in Poetry Event held at Plymouth Public Library; Free & Open to Public*



**Suggested Caption:** In years past, Quincy College students have reflected with Plymouth County Correctional Facility Inmates on the works of Edgar Allan Poe, short stories, and poetry. On November 6th, Quincy College students and inmates will participate in a Poetry in Music event. A free, open to the public event reading will be held at the Plymouth Public Library following the collaboration.

**Social Media Release (140 Characters):** .@QuincyCollege .@PlymouthLibrary & .@PlymouthSheriff host annual collaboration event for #students, #inmates & community. Poetry in Music event will be held on November 6th.

**Plymouth, MA (10/31/2019) -**

"Visions realize, music affected lives. A gift from the skies, to be recognized. I'm keeping my eyes on the people, that's the prize."

Lyrics to "The People" by Common and the poetry of music will be discussed by Quincy College students, Plymouth County Correctional Facility Inmates and the greater community of Plymouth during a November 6th event. Quincy College in coordination with Plymouth County Sheriff's Department and the Plymouth Public Library continues to build upon the success of their unique program to explore the themes and works of music and poetry with a two-part event for the community.

On Wednesday, November 6th, Quincy College students and inmates join at the Plymouth County Correctional Facility to discuss four songs ("Tangled Up in Blue" by Bob Dylan, "The People" by Common, "Heart Shaped Box" by Kurt Cobain, and "Sound of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel) and explore songs that could exist as poetry. Inmates and students are also selecting song lyrics that they believe would qualify as poetry based on their use of metaphor, imagery, and sound devices in addition to rhyming.

After the discussion, the fifteen Quincy College students will go to Plymouth Public Library where they will read writings by the inmates, share their original works if they choose, and reflect on their experience inside PCCF. The live poetry reading of student, inmate, and published poetry will follow at the Plymouth Public Library starting at 4:00pm on Wednesday November 6th in the Otto Fehlow Room.

" This is always such an energizing and inspiring event. My students approach this collaboration with PCCF with both curiosity and a bit of apprehension, but once they are sitting with the inmates and see how engaged and thoughtful they are, how eager they are to discuss poetry and share ideas with them and watch the connections that emerge, they overcome their shyness and preconceived notions and leave excited. Many have called this a 'life-changing event.' The students are then excited to share their experiences and read the assigned poetry along with poetry they and the inmates have written with the Plymouth Library audience, " Dr. Laurel Kornhiser, Quincy College Instructor of English and Humanities.

Kornhiser elaborates: " This is what I love about literature: no matter our backgrounds, no matter our culture, we share a common humanity, we share experiences that are universal, and this program highlights that connection. While in the past we have bonded over mythology, crime and detective fiction, and literature of the supernatural, the inmates have most enjoyed our poetry programs, so this year's theme is Poetry in Music."

This is Quincy College's fourth year of collaborating with PCCF and the Plymouth Library in a program that unites students, inmates, and library participants through literature.

Students enrolled in Quincy College's English Composition II class will have the opportunity to visit the Plymouth County Correction Facility (PCCF), under the supervision of the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department and Quincy College Instructor of English and Humanities Dr. Laurel Kornhiser to discuss select lyrics and songs written across a variety of genres that represents the varied voices that make up America. They will also share with each other their own lyrics and poetry.

Quincy College Interim President and Former Norfolk County Sheriff, Michael G. Bellotti reflected on the event and the continuation of a valuable partnership between Quincy College at Plymouth faculty, the Plymouth Public Library, the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, and the Plymouth community at large:

" The intersection of education and experience in the justice system reduces recidivism among inmates. Students and inmates can learn more from each others experiences, connect with each other, and find points of intersectionality, while providing an outlet for creativity and voice. This is a wonderful program that Quincy College is proud to partner with the Plymouth County Correctional Facility, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department, and the Plymouth Public Library which culminates in a great event that the shared community can enjoy. " Quincy College President, Michael G. Bellotti.

Reflecting on the value of the Poetry of Music Program for inmates at Plymouth County Correctional Facility, Sheriff Joseph McDonald states: "I am very appreciative of our partnership with Quincy College and Plymouth Public Library. Their willingness to work with the men at the Correctional Facility enriches the opportunity for insightful discussions which is very helpful."

"This annual event in November is featuring the Poetry of Music as an acknowledgment to how lyrics are the poetry in music. The Library has also invited two local poets, Miriam O'Neal and Lisa Sullivan to read their own poetry that is inspired by the selected works. We are excited to host this wonderful program" states Jennifer Harris, Library Director, Plymouth Public Library.

For more information on this event, please visit:

[http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/xp\\_newpopevent.cfm?zeeOrg=PPL&EventID=5957172&sw=1920](http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/xp_newpopevent.cfm?zeeOrg=PPL&EventID=5957172&sw=1920)

To listen to the music that the students and Plymouth County Correctional Facility inmates will be discussing, be sure to check out the Quincy College Spotify Playlist "Poetry In Music" available here: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3RhROUGzHNIvAIDqC4dqHZ?si=OTOPextpQhWSZHbiASyziQ>

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## ABOUT QUINCY COLLEGE

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,000 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 37 associate degree programs and 27 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, and Natural & Health Sciences. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area as well as 121 countries around the world. For additional information, visit [www.quincycollege.edu](http://www.quincycollege.edu)

## ABOUT PLYMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Plymouth County Correctional Facility (PCCF) is one of the largest correctional facilities under one roof in New England. The jail holds a diverse male inmate population, including county, state and federal prisoners. Some have been sentenced; others are awaiting trial. Opened in 1994, PCCF's design and operation reflects contemporary corrections management practices. PCCF is accredited by the American Correctional Association and in its most recent compliance audit the facility received a 100% score through county public safety efforts. The department also supports its K-9, Warrant Apprehension and Honor Guard. The Communications Department coordinates all fire mutual aid in the county, serves as the communications link between paramedics and hospitals, and provides communications services at the scene of major events. The Bureau of Criminal Investigation assists local police in collecting and analyzing evidence from crime scenes, and in photographing major traffic accident scenes. All public safety support services are provided at the request of local police and fire departments. The Civil Process Department, headquartered in Brockton, dispatches deputies to serve legal documents in civil cases. Fees paid by attorneys and plaintiffs for delivery of these documents fund the division's operation. Today, the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department employs more than 500 professional people, making it one of the largest employers in Plymouth County.

## ABOUT PLYMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Serving the community since 1857, the mission of the Plymouth Public Library is to select, acquire, organize, preserve and make conveniently accessible services and a collection of materials, in various formats, held in common by the people of Plymouth for their education, cultural, recreational and informational needs and interests. The library is among the 29 member libraries belonging to the Old Colony Library Network (OCLN), which circulated almost 6 million titles last year alone. In-library delivery brings these items to your local library. An integral part of municipal government, the library supports lifelong learning and the reading enjoyment of the community. For more information, visit: <http://www.plymouthpubliclibrary.org/about-us/>.

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