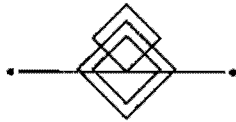


WHEN THE  
LIGHT OF THE WORLD  
WAS SUBDUED,  
OUR SONGS CAME THROUGH

*A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry*



EDITORS

Joy Harjo • *Executive Editor*

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Never again I,  
will I on this world,  
I, around will I be walking.

Don Jesús Yoilo'i  
Yoem Pueblo  
May 9, 1981



FRANK LAPENA (1937–2019), *Nomtipom Wintu*, a poet, singer, essayist, visual artist, and performance artist, earned his BA degree at California State University Chico and his MA from Sacramento State University, where he served as professor of Art and Ethnic Studies and director of Native American Studies for more than thirty years. Working across the fields of art, from singing to writing to visual, dance, and performative art, LaPena was a founding member of the Maidu Dancers and Traditionalists, dedicated to the revival and preservation of these Native arts.

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## THE UNIVERSE SINGS

Spring days  
and winter nights  
have beautiful  
flowers shining  
they make themselves  
visible  
by whispering  
in the color  
of blue pollen

Their fragrances  
are footprints  
lightly traveling  
on the milky way

Once I was given  
a bracelet of  
golden yellow flowers  
on velvet darkness

Reenie said that  
a mouse was painted  
in the color of the sun  
and that he danced for joy  
on seeing flowers  
blossom into stars  
dancing across the universe  
and singing,  
singing, singing.



GEORGIANA VALOYCE-SANCHEZ (1939–), *Chumash, Tobono O'odham, and Pima*, was born and raised in California. She is an elder on the governing council of the Barbareño Chumash Council and a board member of the California Indian Storytelling Association. Her poems have been anthologized widely, including in *The Sound of Rattles and Clappers*, *Through the Eye of the Deer*, and *Red Indian Road West*. She recently retired from the American Indian Studies Program at California State University, Long Beach after twenty-eight years.

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## THE DOLPHIN WALKING STICK

He says  
sure you look for your Spirit  
symbol            your totem  
only it's more a waiting  
watching  
for its coming