



For Immediate Release
September 24, 2024

Poet, novelist Kaveh Akbar to speak at Clark College on October 3
Akbar to kick off 2024-25 Columbia Writers Series

VANCOUVER, Wash.— The Clark College Columbia Writers Series kicks off its 2024-2025 season with Kaveh Akbar, acclaimed poet, novelist and editor whose poems appear in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The Best American Poetry* and more. His writing delves into themes of empire, immigration, addiction, and the healing power of art. This event, which is free and open to the public, will start at 11 a.m. on Thursday, October 3 in Penguin Union Building (PUB) room 258 A-C on Clark College's main campus, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver.

Akbar's debut novel published earlier this year, *Martyr!* is a *New York Times* Bestseller, has been longlisted for the National Book Award and was one of Barack Obama's favorite books of the year. *The New York Times Book Review* wrote: "Electrifying, funny, and wholly original, *Martyr!* heralds the arrival of an essential new voice in contemporary fiction."



Akbar also is the author of two poetry collections: *Pilgrim Bell* and *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*, and a poetry chapbook, *Portrait of the Alcoholic*. He edited two poetry anthologies, *Another Last Call: Poems on Addiction & Deliverance* and *The Penguin Book of Spiritual Verse*.

As part of his community work, Akbar leads [The Break](#), a series of free virtual workshops and conversations at The Alano Club in Portland, Oregon. Presented in partnership with All Rise and Literary Arts, The Break gathers writers and artists around themes of recovery.

Accolades: Akbar's debut poetry collection, *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*, received *Foreword Magazine's* Gold Winner for Poetry and garnered multiple best book of the year commendations from *Interview Magazine*, *Library Journal*, National Public Radio and more. *A Publisher's Weekly* starred review wrote: "A breathtaking addition to the canon of addiction literature." *Interview Magazine* wrote: "Akbar's incredible debut poetry collection deals with his experiences with alcoholism and recovery, but also faith, family, the body, language, and loss; all distilled into exquisitely felt poems that linger long after you turn the page."

The Columbia Writers Series is hosting Akbar in partnership with the college's Alliance of Counseling Education Students (ACES). The winter and spring writers featured during the 2024-2025 Columbia Writers Series will be announced later.

Directions and maps are available [online](#). If you need an accommodation due to a disability in order to fully participate in this event, please contact Clark College's Human Resources office. Phone: 360-992-2105 Email: hr@clark.edu

About Columbia Writers Series: The Columbia Writers Series was launched at Clark College in 1988, bringing local, national and international authors to the college and the region. Learn more about the Columbia Writers Series at www.clark.edu/cc/cws.

[About Clark College](#)

Founded in 1933, Clark College provides residents of Southwest Washington with affordable, high-quality academic and technical education. It is a public community college offering more than 100 degree and certificate programs, including bachelor's and associate degrees; professional certificates; high school diplomas and GED preparation; and non-credit community and continuing education. Clark serves a wide range of students including high school students, displaced workers, veterans, parents, non-native English speakers and mature learners. About 45% of its students are in the first generation of their families to attend college.

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