

Press Release / CALENDAR Event
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Poet Dana Gioia and Pianist Helen Sung Collaborate in Concert Fundraiser

February 1, 2019 -- HEALDSBURG, CA – Healdsburg Jazz, the 21-year old nonprofit that produces the annual Healdsburg Jazz Festival, announces an exclusive fundraising event set for Sunday, March 10, 2019, from 4 to 6 p.m.

“*Word-Play: Poet Meets Pianist*” will feature revered local poet **Dana Gioia**, former Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts and California Poet Laureate, performing in collaboration with renowned jazz pianist **Helen Sung**. The venue is the unique Geyserville home and sculpture gardens of the Voigt family, well-known patrons of the arts.

Last year the two artists collaborated on a CD, "Sung With Words," that drew national media attention. Sung appeared in Healdsburg in support of the CD in December, where Gioia was a surprise guest. This will be their first full performance together since the CD's release.

Limited to 50 guests, the artists are donating their time and talents in support of Healdsburg Jazz. Guests will enjoy appetizers by Healdsburg restaurateur **Dustin Valette** and a selection of local wines. The performance will be preceded by an optional sculpture and home tour. The wooded, secluded property showcases numerous indoor and outdoor artworks and a soaring home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright devotee Susu Kishiyama.

Tickets are \$250/person and are tax-deductible. They can be purchased at www.healdsburgjazz.org

SUMMARY DETAILS:

Word-Play: Poet Meets Pianist

In support of Healdsburg Jazz

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Voigt Family Ranch, Geyserville (directions provided upon ticket purchase)

3 p.m. Optional home & sculpture tour (weather permitting)

4-6 p.m. Concert performance and appetizers

Cost: \$250 per person

Valet parking available.

Healdsburg Jazz, Inc., is a registered 501(c)3 educational non-profit, and all donations are tax deductible to the maximum extent of the tax law. Tax ID # 71-0910474

MORE ABOUT THE ARTISTS in collaboration: *Sung with Words* (from NPR)

[Helen Sung](#) has worked with jazz luminaries like [Clark Terry](#), [Wayne Shorter](#) and [Terri Lyne Carrington](#), but one recent project might end up being her most celebrated to date. *Sung With Words* merges jazz and poetry together to make a multi-movement work that explores themes of the human condition: love, betrayal, wonder, melancholy and mystery.

[Dana Gioia](#) is an award-winning poet and former chairman of both the National Endowment for the Arts and California's Poet Laureate. Sung and Gioia met in 2006, connected immediately, and discovered they had shared passions like science fiction and jazz. He sent her a book of poetry, she sent him a CD. The more poetry she read, the more the poems came alive as she started hearing stanzas take on the form of melody and rhythm. When Sung applied for a New Jazz Works grant to make this project, Gioia was the perfect collaborator.

Gioia pens the six spoken word introductions on *Sung With Words*, in addition to performing them. In the liner notes, he explains, "As a poet, I was excited and intrigued to write jazz songs. Our project allowed me to write a different sort of poem — more direct, emotional, and musical than work conceived for the page. Lyrics need to grab the listener's attention. They must make an immediate connection." And they do, with conviction and precision. Each line, though simple and easy to understand, carries a deep and profound message.

Additional details about the event and performers can be found at www.healdsburgjazzfestival.org/dana-gioia-helen-sung-fundraiser-march-10/