



Get your
Poetry

Published

5 Tips

GETTING YOUR POETRY PUBLISHED: 5 FREE TIPS

Many poets are on the look-out for opportunities to get their poetry published to further their career and build their brand. But are there particular things we as poets can do to enhance the likelihood of our poems being selected for publication? Episode three of The Poetrygram Podcast includes an interview with editor and features writer Laura Silverman who offers advice on how to best approach the submissions process. This ebook contains some supplementary tips that you may find helpful when sending your work out to journals and magazines.

If you find these tips useful, please consider ordering my book: *Self-Publish Your Poetry collection: A How-To Guide*.

TIP ONE: Be aware of reading windows. Some publications are only open for submissions for certain portions of the year and the rest of the time are busy reading submissions. Some publications will let you know within the week if your work has been accepted, others can have a reading window of six months and you won't hear a thing before the time is up. Perhaps even a little after.

Before you submit a piece of work to a publication, check in on reading windows and ask yourself if you are patient enough to work with this particular publication. Think carefully before submitting to a publication that might take up to six months to let you know you've been rejected. That's a long time to wait only to find out you haven't been successful.

You can ease this frustration experienced by many poets submitting their work by submitting your work simultaneously — assuming the submission guidelines allow you to do this. Most publications are flexible about this and simply ask you to notify them if your work is accepted elsewhere as soon as possible.

If a publication does not accept simultaneous submissions, make sure you are willing to wait for as long as it takes to receive feedback on your submission. If it seems too tall an order, you might be better off trying another publication instead.

TIP TWO: Think Digital. For many years there was a certain snobbery about online poetry journals. Poets wanted to see their work 'in print' rather than have their work uploaded onto a website. Although it can be difficult to let go of old-fashioned expectations of the industry, submitting your work only to print publications isn't always the smartest way to work.

The thing is about websites, especially websites where your work appears without charge or without a pay wall, is that people are much more likely to stumble across it than they are if it is published in a small print journal that publishes 500 copies.

This is not to say that you shouldn't submit to those small journals too, of course you should! But to ensure the maximum exposure of you and your work it would be best to submit your work to a mix of offline and online outlets so your work is exposed to different kinds of readerships and more importantly, to a greater number of readers.

TIP THREE: Read current journals and magazines. This tip is not just for the sake of making sure that your work is a fit for the journals you're submitting to — although that is very important. It is also so you understand where your work fits in the current poetry landscape. Is your poetry part of a particular stylistic or thematic movement? Is it different to what everyone else is writing right now. If so, how? Knowing this will help you write an informed submission letter to editors which arguably looks more professional than talking about your work without any context at all.

TIP FOUR: Beta Readers. Before you submit, let somebody else read your work. They might not catch anything more significant than a typo but it's one less reason for the editor to reject you. They might however, also offer you feedback on an image that doesn't really convey anything to you. This might help you make part of your work clearer or help you edit out

something that is unnecessarily slowing the pace of your poem. You don't have to act on absolutely every piece of feedback you are given but ideally, someone besides you will have read your work before it makes it into the hands of an editor to make sure your copy sparkles.

TIP FIVE: Flight Check. Before you hit 'send' on your submission form or email, complete a flight check. Have you got the editor's name right? Have you followed all of the submission guidelines to the letter? Have you double-checked your submission letter for typos or grammatical errors? Have you included a biography if they have asked for one? Are you sending your work in the format requested? Most publications favour a word document and all of the submission guidelines are in place for a reason so to enhance your chances of getting published make sure you've followed them.

More than anything else, this tells the editor who opens your email that you cared enough to make sure everything was just right for them and that demonstrates a commitment to the craft and an enthusiasm for making the best possible impression.

For more tips on getting your work published, why not tune in to Episode 3 of The Poetrygram Podcast [here](#).