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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Simon's Rock to Host Ukrainian Poetry Reading with John Hennessy and Jim Kates

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA—John Hennessy and Jim Kates will read translations of Ukrainian poetry in solidarity with the current plight of the Ukrainian people. The reading will take place on Wednesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Kellogg Music Center at Bard College at Simon's Rock. The event is free and open to the public. Audiences will need to show proof of vaccination, wear masks, and observe socially distanced seating. Reservations must be made in advance and can be made [here](#).

Hennessy, a poet himself, is the co-translator of Serhiy Zhadan's 2020 collection, *A New Orthography*. Kates translates from Russian and is the publisher of Zephyr Press, which has brought out the renowned anthology *From Three Worlds: New Writing from Ukraine*. The reading will be in English and include a Q&A session for audience members at the end.

For more information about the event, visit [here](#).

John Hennessy received his B.A. from Princeton University, M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin, and M.F.A. from the University of Arkansas. After two years at Boston University, in 2003 he came to the University of Massachusetts where he has taught a variety of courses in creative writing and literature, including English 499, Foundations and Departures: Fiction, Poetry, and Literary Non-Fiction, a Capstone course for creative writing students.

Hennessy is the author of two collections of poems, *Bridge and Tunnel* and *Coney Island Pilgrims*. He is the co-translator, with Ostap Kin, of *A New Orthography*, selected poems by Serhiy Zhadan, finalist for the PEN America Award for Poetry in Translation and co-winner of the Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry, and the anthology *Babyn Yar: Ukrainian Poets Respond*, part of the new Harvard Library of Ukrainian Literature (HUP). Hennessy has published fiction, poetry, and a variety of literary and critical essays in many journals and anthologies, including *The Best American Poetry 2013*, *The Believer*, *Harvard Review*, *The Huffington Post*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Southwest Review*, *The Yale Review*, *What's Your Exit? A Literary Detour Through New Jersey*, and *Best New Poets 2005*. He is a contributing editor to *Fulcrum: an annual of poetry and aesthetics* and the poetry editor of *The Common*.

Jim Kates is a minor poet, a literary translator and the co-director of Zephyr Press. He has been awarded three National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, an Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, the Cliff Becker Book Prize in Translation, and a Käpylä Translation Prize. He has published three chapbooks of his own

poems and one full book, *The Briar Patch* (Hobblebush Books). He is the translator of more than a dozen books of translations of Russian and French poets, and has edited two anthologies of translations. A former president of the American Literary Translators Association, he is also the co-translator of six books of Latin American and Spanish poetry.

About Simon's Rock

[Bard College at Simon's Rock](#) is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon's Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors. The Princeton Review's *Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon's Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

[Bard Academy at Simon's Rock](#) is the nation's first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon's Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students' future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.

For more information, visit simons-rock.edu and bardacademy.simons-rock.edu.

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