




Poetry is Music

		
<p>Musical Notes \neq A Song</p>	<p>Musical Notes with an Idea \neq A Song</p>	<p>Musical Notes, Ideas, Spaces, Rhythm, and Meaning = A Song</p>
<p>Words Alone \neq A Poem</p>	<p>Words with Just an Idea \neq A Poem</p>	<p>Words, Ideas, Spaces, Rhythm, and Meaning = A Poem</p>

Fault Zone Editorial Guidelines for Poetry are something like this:

If you want to **be** a poet, you have to **read** poetry. You have become an addict of verse, consuming it whenever you can get your hands on the good stuff, at breakfast, at odd times during the day, last thing at night.

Where do you find the good stuff? It's to be found in a lot of places, all of them available at your local independent bookseller, or in your local library, in the poetry section. Pick up and read anthologies of all sorts but one: stay away from "Best Loved Poems of . . ." where you are sure to find lots of words with just an idea. Pick up the slim volumes by modern poets, the thick collections by categorized by single poets or by the poets of nations. All nations, translations from all languages, insights into all traditions.

Read them all, omnivorously. When you have been touched by one, or by one poet, or by one form, study these carefully. Look for what works—that is, what touched you—and why.

Listen. Go to readings and slams, find audio of poets reading their own work and that of others, and listen for the accents, the spaces, the rhythm and flow of the spoken word. Listen for the iambs, the trochees and the dactyls, the spaces between them. The sense of the words, the reasons behind the breaks and stanzas.

Write. Write. Write. Poetry is art. Its practice takes time, study, attention to detail. None of this has to be work. If it's work, it ain't art. If you've written something that shows me you've paid attention to your art, send it. If you've just put some words together around an idea, save your time and mine.

As for any criteria for submittal, allow me to quote from the movie critic Mick LaSalle:

*"To have criteria implies that you have something in mind, some kind of formula or standard against which to measure something as **measureless and infinite with possibility as art**. That's not the right way to encounter the vastness and splendor of creation. You just have to roll with it and see what happens. That leaves open more chance for expansion and discovery."*