



# CELESTIAL SUMMER SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

## KIMIKO HAHN

**Kimiko Hahn is currently serving as the New York State Poet.** She is the author of eleven collections of poetry, including *The Ghost Forest: New & Selected Poems* (W.W. Norton, 2024). In 2023, Kimiko was named a Chancellor for the Academy of American Poets and received The Poetry Foundation's Ruth Lilly Lifetime Achievement Award. Hahn is a distinguished professor in the MFA Program in Creative Writing & Literary Translation at Queens College, The City University of New York.

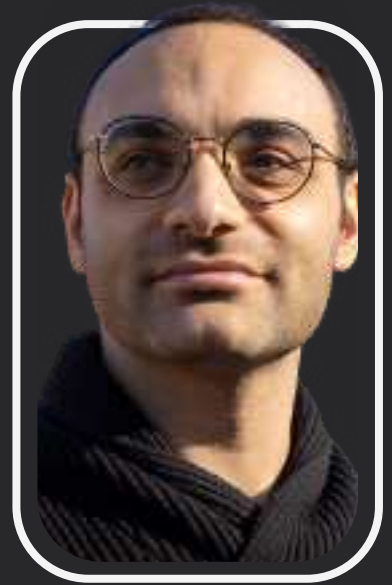


## EMELINE LEE

**Emeline Lee is an author of children's literature.** Her picture books include *Bonnie's Rocket* (illus. Alina Chau; Lee & Low Books), a STEM-friendly story set during Apollo 11, and *Gwei the Hungry Ghost* (illus. Basia Tran; Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers), a whimsical story inspired by Chinese food and folklore. She studied English literature and environmental sustainability at Columbia University and lives in New Jersey. In her free time, Emeline enjoys hiking in nature, eating hot pot, and crocheting cozy things. Visit her website at [www.emelinelee.com](http://www.emelinelee.com) and find her on social media at @EmelineLeeBooks.

## ADRIAN BAYER

**Adrian Bayer studies the largest structures in the universe:** the vast “cosmic web” of galaxies stretching across billions of light-years and the cosmic microwave background (leftover heat from the Big Bang). He uses AI and enormous computer simulations to trace how everything grew from the Big Bang to today, and what our universe is made of. He is looking forward to chatting with parkgoers about how the sun and moon fits into the broader cosmic story and how scientists reconstruct the history of the universe.



## LATOYA ANDERSON

**LaToya Anderson is a former ballet dancer, physicist, speaker, and science communicator** with proud Black American roots in Harlem and the South. After earning her first degree in dance, an episode of Star Trek inspired her to pursue a second degree in physics. Her research at the Simons Foundation has explored how energy is stored in crystals using quantum physics and supercomputers and she now supports researchers using high-performance computing to advance scientific discovery at MIT Lincoln Laboratory. Through speaking engagements, science panels, and her podcast Quantum and Beyond, Anderson uses storytelling to make science more human, accessible, and connected to the lives of the people behind the research.

## MEGAN BEDELL

**Dr. Megan Bedell is a research scientist at the Flatiron Institute's Center for Computational Astrophysics**, where she studies Sun-like stars and the planets that orbit them. Her research focuses on detecting and characterizing exoplanets, using high-precision measurements of stellar light to uncover worlds beyond our solar system. She is particularly interested in the search for Earth-like planets and in pushing the limits of what we can learn about distant stars. When she's not doing science, she can usually be found at the library or the dog park.







**MAX ISI**

**Max Isi is a gravitational-wave astrophysicist** using observations to probe the physics and astrophysics of gravity, black holes, and neutron stars. He creates new ways to exploit measurements from the LIGO and Virgo observatories to answer questions in astrophysics and cosmology, while paving the way for future instruments like a space-based gravitational wave observatory. When not working with data, he thinks about open questions regarding the nature of black hole mergers and their observational implications.

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