

## Sekou Andrews

Grammy-Nominated Creator of "Poetic Voice" & Inspirational Speaker

Imagine harnessing the power of an engaging opening video, an electric closing performance, and an insightful main stage keynote all in one dynamic presentation. For over 15 years Sekou Andrews has been helping the world's largest organizations deliver relevant information with riveting inspiration through an innovative, unconventional category of speaking called "Poetic Voice."

It is no surprise that *Forbes Magazine* has called Sekou "*the de facto poet laureate of corporate America.*" His "wow-factor" is in high demand with the world's most successful organizations, including Google, Viacom, Toyota, Nike, Cisco, LinkedIn, Global Green, Paypal, ASAE, The Gap, General Mills, TEDx, YPO, Capital One, L'Oreal, Autodesk, ACLU, Intuit, and the NBA to name but a few. Sekou has also emerged as an inspiring voice for health and wellness, routinely evoking tears, cheers, and standing ovations at events for clients such as Johnson & Johnson, United Healthcare, Mayo Clinic, Blue Shield, TEDMED, Roche, Genentech, and the American Nurses Association.

Many of Sekou's clients share a similar journey with his work. It begins with the words "*Why would we want poetry at our leadership meeting?*" and ends with the words "*highest rating opening of our event, ever*" and "*only speaker invited back.*" Sekou's talks on disruption are in such demand because they literally embody disruption on stage, charging audiences to disrupt themselves to access their individual innovation. His keynotes on dynamic communication and storytelling show leaders how to deliver dense data through beautifully human presentations. From bold thinking and success, to healthcare and tech, Sekou's speeches are rich with actionable insight that help attendees connect more deeply with their communities, become more influential leaders, and unlock greater possibilities.

A schoolteacher turned actor, recording artist, two-time national poetry slam champion, entrepreneur, and award-winning poetic voice, Sekou is a multi-talented entertainer with over 2 decades of experience rocking diverse audiences. His work has been featured on ABC World News, MSNBC, HBO, *Good Morning America*, Showtime, MTV and BET. He has given private performances for such prominent individuals as Oprah Winfrey, Maya Angelou, Quincy Jones, Larry King, Hillary Clinton, Coretta Scott King & family and President Obama. He has also shared the stage with such heavyweights as Stevie Wonder, Jay-Z, Carlos Santana, Kendrick Lamar, Maroon 5, Jill Scott, and the Pasadena Pops Orchestra. As a recording artist, his album, "Poetic License," made him the most awarded artist in the nation's largest independent music organization. In 2019, Sekou became the first contemporary poet in 12 years to receive the Grammy nomination for Best Spoken Word Album with his latest album, "Sekou Andrews and the String Theory."

Sekou has now returned to the classroom, teaching his rockstar secrets to public speakers through his highly effective Stage Might™ speaker training system, that helps executives, influencers and leaders become more dynamic communicators by applying the techniques of master performers to business stages.

With all of the innovation and inspiration that is *poetic voice*, Sekou Andrews is accomplishing the seemingly impossible – bringing spoken word to the world's largest stages, while redefining the notion of what a speaker is... and what a poet can be.