

North Carolina Author Receives National Recognition



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President's Book Awards Program

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The 2023 Annual Florida Authors and Publishers Association President's Book Awards recognized An Instrument for Florenda by Tomeko Brown and Christopher Smallwood, in the Children's Books category for Grades 3-5, as a Gold medal winner.

Hosted by the Florida Authors and Publishers Association, this prestigious national award was open to books published between 2021 and 2023. The judges for this national competition are librarians, educators, and publishing professionals.

The FAPA President's Book Awards recognizes book publishing excellence and creativity in design, content, and production for authors, illustrators, cover designers, and publishers. This contest isn't limited to Florida; it is open to anyone worldwide, as long as the book is written in English. We hope to encourage entries from all who share our complex and wonderful language.

An Instrument for Florenda is a children's fiction book published through IngramSpark which follows twelve-year-old Florenda's journey to achieve her dream of playing the clarinet in her school's first band

class. With the help of her neighbors, she is gifted a used clarinet that unlocks the door to a world of gripping band competitions, unexpected twists, and a heartwarming concert with a surprise ending.

“I wish to congratulate all our winners. Our book awards program is vital to the publishing industry because it serves to recognize excellence and creativity not just for authors, but for publishers and everyone involved in creating the book. It also serves as a tremendous boost of confidence for beginning authors who win. This year, we had the finest quality books in recent memory. The competition was exceptionally close, and scores were unusually high. Our judges had a difficult time narrowing down the finalists. Earning a medal is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to each winner’s skill and talent,” said FAPA’s President, Robert Jacob.

The Florida Authors and Publishers Association is an organization for authors, publishers, illustrators, editors, printers, and other professionals involved in the publishing industry. Its mission is to provide information, resources, professional development, and networking opportunities to the writing and publishing community throughout Florida, the United States, and the world.

<https://www.myfapa.org/2023-year-s-medalists>

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