She Took Off Her Wings And Shoes

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This annual competition, named for May Swenson, honors her as one of America’s most provocative, insouciant, and vital poets. In John Hollander’s words, she was “one of our few unquestionably major poets.” During her long career, May was loved and praised by writers from virtually every major school of poetry. She left a legacy of nearly fifty years of writing when she died in 1989.

May Swenson lived most of her adult life in New York City, the center of poetry writing and publishing in her day. But she is buried in Logan, Utah, her birthplace and hometown.