

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Margarita Engle Wins 2016 Charlotte Zolotow Award

Madison, WI -- *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*, written by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Rafael López, is the winner of the nineteenth annual Charlotte Zolotow Award for outstanding writing in a picture book. The award is given by the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC), a library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and will be presented in Madison this spring.

Margarita Engle's striking picture book narrative tells the story of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga. Millo, as she was known, was born in Cuba in the 1920s. She dreamed of drumming, but only boys and men learned how to play at that time. She dared to drum anyway, "tall conga drums / small bongo drums / and big, round, silvery / moon-bright timbales ... Her hands seemed to fly / as they rippled / rapped / and pounded / all the rhythms / of her drum dreams."

Engle uses varying rhythms, alliteration, repetition and internal rhyme with superb restraint and effect, creating a musical narrative punctuated by occasional bounces in the midst of its marvelous flow as she describes Millo's eventual triumph in convincing others that girls could play. Her words are set against the vibrant tropical colors of Rafael López's lush illustrations.

Drum Dream Girl was edited by Jeannette Larson and published in the United States in 2015 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

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The 2016 Zolotow Award committee named five Honor Books: *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*, written by Lindsay Mattick, illustrated by Sophie Blackall, edited by Susan Rich, and published by Little, Brown; *Hoot Owl: Master of Disguise*, written by Sean Taylor, illustrated by Jean Jullien, edited by Kate Fletcher, and published by Candlewick Press; *Last Stop on Market Street*, written by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson, edited by Jen Besser, and published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Group; *The New Small Person*, written and illustrated by Lauren Child, edited by Elizabeth Bicknell, and published by Candlewick Press; and *When Otis Courted Mama*, written by Kathi Appelt, illustrated by Jill McElmurry, edited by Jeannette Larson, and published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

The 2016 Zolotow Award committee also cited ten titles as Highly Commended: *Goodnight, Good Dog* written by Mary Lynn Ray and illustrated by Rebecca Malone (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt); *How the Sun Got to Coco's House* written and illustrated by Bob Graham (Candlewick Press); *Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* written by Edwidge Danticat and illustrated by Leslie Staub (Dial / Penguin); *Maya's Blanket / La manta de Maya* written by Monica Brown, illustrated by David Diaz, Spanish translation by Adriana Domínguez (Children's Book Press / Lee & Low Books); *Miss Hazeltine's Home for Shy and Fearful Cats* written by Alicia Potter and illustrated by Birgitta Sif (Alfred A. Knopf / Random House); *A Poem in Your Pocket* written by Margaret McNamara and illustrated by G. Brian Karas (Schwartz & Wade Books / Random House); *Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook* written and illustrated by Anne Vittur Kennedy (Candlewick Press); *Waiting* written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow Books / HarperCollins); *Water Is Water* written by Miranda Paul and illustrated by Jason Chin (A Neal Porter Book / Roaring Brook Press); and *When Sophie's*

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Feelings Are Really, Really Hurt written and illustrated by Molly Bang (The Blue Sky Press / Scholastic Inc.).

Established in 1998, the Charlotte Zolotow Award honors the work of Charlotte Zolotow, a distinguished children's book editor for 38 years with Harper Junior Books, and author of more than 70 picture books, including such classic works as *Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present* (Harper, 1962) and *William's Doll* (Harper, 1972). Ms. Zolotow attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison on a writing scholarship from 1933 to 1936, where she studied with Professor Helen C. White. Ms. Zolotow died in November, 2013, at the age of 98.

The award is given annually for outstanding writing in a picture book for children in the birth through seven age range and published in the United States in the preceding year. Members of the 2016 Zolotow Award committee were: Merri Lindgren, chair (Librarian, Cooperative Children's Book Center, Madison, Wisconsin); Ellen Bunn (Librarian, EAGLE School, Madison, Wisconsin); Joan Ershler (Director, Waisman Early Childhood Program, Madison, Wisconsin); Karen Lenocho (Instructional Resource Teacher, Crestwood Elementary School, Madison, Wisconsin); Ruth Sias (Children's Librarian, Madison Public Library, Madison, Wisconsin); and Emily Thompson (Librarian, Cooperative Children's Book Center, Madison, Wisconsin).

The Cooperative Children's Book Center is a noncirculating library for adults with a professional, career or academic interest in children's and young adult literature. The Friends of the CCBC, Inc., sponsors of the award event, is a nonprofit organization offering lectures, book sales and other benefits for members, in addition to supporting the work of the Cooperative Children's Book Center.

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