



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(May 19, 2014 – Long Beach, CA)

Local author, Nancy Young, has won three national and international book awards including the Silver Medal for Best Regional Fiction (Canada-East) for the Independent Publisher Book Awards, or “IPPY Awards.

The medal-winning book will be celebrated on **May 28th during the annual BookExpo America publishing convention in New York City**, along with gold, silver and bronze IPPY medallions awarded in 78 national, 22 regional, and ten e-book categories. **This year’s contest – hailed as the “world’s largest book competition” – drew over 5,500 entries from authors and publishers in all 50 U.S. states, nine Canadian provinces, and 32 countries overseas.**

The **Eighth Annual Independent Publisher Book Awards**, honors the best independently published books of 2013/14. Launched in 1996, The IPPY Awards recognize merit in a broad range of subjects and reward authors and publishers who "take chances and break new ground." Independent publishers, along with independent booksellers, have long held an important role in the world of books, offering an alternative to "the big five" conglomerated media publishers.

“Independent publishers are growing in number, and the quality of their work is increasing,” said awards director Jim Barnes. “One element driving the high rate of excellence is participation from university presses. This year, 29 medalists came from university presses and 9 came from museums. Their elevated level of writing, editing, design and production raises the bar and inspires us all.”

The regional “IPPYs” are designed to spotlight the best regional titles from around North America and Australia/New Zealand. The 2014 Independent Publisher Regional Awards are presented to the year's best titles published in these important and growing divisions of independent publishing. **Awards were given to 79 Regional fiction and non-fiction medalists, chosen from nearly 1,400 entries.**

CANADA-EAST – BEST REGIONAL FICTION: *Silver: Strum*, by Nancy Young
(Inkwater Press)

“I am truly honored by the recognition *Strum* has received,” said author Nancy Young. “The level of talent of all the winning authors I have met so far has been tremendous. World renowned writers like John Irving have received similar awards and I am delighted that my first novel could garner such respect. The book draws on my experiences of traveling, living and working abroad, and the people – especially artists and musicians I have met around the world. I want people from all walks of life to read my story and appreciate the humanity that binds us together.”

Young has also won Honorable Mention Awards in the 2014 San Francisco Book Festival and the 2014 Great Northwest Book Festivals, sponsored by JM Northern Media, based in Hollywood, California. Young’s debut novel, *Strum*, published by Inkwater Press in Portland, Oregon on June 12, 2013, is a truly global tale hailed by *Kirkus Reviews* as: “A beautifully written, engrossing family epic.” *Pasadena Now*: “A sweeping debut of enduring but tragic love...” and *The Fairy Poet of New York*: “An audacious and marvelous first novel. Highly recommend it!”

IPPY Medalist Press

Page: <http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1807>

See complete results for the 2014 Independent Publisher Book Awards at

<http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1791>

Regional and E-Book Awards:

<http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1794>

Outstanding Books of the Year:

<http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1795>

Printable PDF version of Press

Release: http://www.independentpublisher.com/ipland/IPPY_PressRelease2014.pdf

About the Book

THREE-TIME AWARD WINNER:

- * 2014 Silver Medal "IPPY" Award for Best Regional Fiction (Canada-East)
- * 2014 San Francisco Book Festival - Hon. Mention for General Fiction
- * 2014 Great Northwest Book Festival - Hon. Mention for Fiction

"A beautifully written, engrossing family epic." *Kirkus Reviews*

"Young's intense focus on the natural world provides imagery of glistening beauty."
Publishers Weekly

"A sweeping debut of enduring but tragic love..." *Pasadena
Now*

"Young's debut novel delights the reader... highly recommend it." *American Library
Association*

"... a mesmerizing story you can't stop reading." *New York Review of
Books*

"An audacious and marvelous first novel..." *The Fairy Poet of New York*

There are many ties that bind us, and as many walls that divide – music and deafness, family and ethnicity, love and war. Strum seamlessly weaves together all these elements into a larger human tapestry of light and shadow, where a combination of fate and decision defines one family's legacy. A tale of culture, spirit, and music, *Strum* paints upon the world's canvas an intimate story of enduring love and how the mysterious forces that divide us can also bring us together. Following two guitars imbued with the spirits of their maker's ancestors, through history from a convent in the French Alps to a Canadian forest, to the jungles of Southeast Asia and an opera house in Sydney, *Strum* is a sweeping tale told against a backdrop of forbidden love, blinding faith, war, and the legacy of six generations of a North American-European-Asian family torn by tragedy but bonded by a haunting music destined to reunite them.

About the Author



Nancy Young's writing brings to life her global travel and multicultural perspective. Born in Taipei and raised in Pasadena, California, she studied English, French and Chinese literature, International Affairs, History, and Film-making at UC Berkeley, Columbia University, University of Hawaii and Melbourne University. She has traveled extensively across the U.S.A. and Canada, and has visited over 30 countries. She worked for many years as a nonprofit arts manager and foundation officer in Los

Angeles and San Francisco before becoming an arts and cultural development consultant for regional, state and federal governments in the USA and Australia for over 16 years. Nancy authored numerous cultural development plans and policies, arts marketing books, and published a short story in the anthology, *Sweet Sisters and Other*

Secrets (Zonta Int'l) in 2000. She now lives in Southern California and supports literacy and education through her work as Director of Development of the Long Beach Public Library Foundation (www.lbplfoundation.org). This is her first novel. Visit the official Strum website: www.nmcyoung.com

Title: *Strum*

Author: Nancy Young

Publisher: Inkwater Press

Pub date: 2013

ISBN: 978-1-59299-937-8 **Paperback:** \$18.95

ISBN: 978-1-59299-938-5 **Kindle e-Book:** \$7.99

Pages: 380

Strum is available from: Amazon.com, Barnes&Noble.com, Inkwaterbooks.com

Also in select retail outlets: Apostrophe Books (Long Beach), Chaucer's Books (Santa Barbara), Vroman's Bookstore (Pasadena), and Webster's Stationery (Altadena)

Author Profile on Goodreads.com

Facebook: [Strum: A Novel](#)

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