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Samatar Elmi

Poet / Musician / Editor / Educator

Updated 8 August 2026

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Biographies

Short bio

Samatar Elmi is an award-winning poet, musician, editor and educator. His books include *Portrait of Colossus* (flipped eye press, 2021) and *The Epic of Cader Idris* (Bloomsbury, 2024). He releases music as Knomad Spock and is touring nationally throughout 2026 with three new poetry collections.

Medium bio

Samatar Elmi is an award-winning writer, musician, editor and educator. His debut pamphlet, *Portrait of Colossus* (flipped eye press, 2021), was selected as a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice. His debut collection, *The Epic of Cader Idris* (Bloomsbury, 2024), includes the poem that won the 2021 Geoffrey Dearmer Prize. His poetry has appeared in *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Poetry Review*, *Poetry Wales*, *Magma* and *Iota*. Elmi is an Obsidian Fellow and an associate poetry editor at flipped eye press. He tours nationally throughout 2026 with *Agan Bien Fou*, *Reclamations: Disregard Prior Prompt* and *26 Poems for Cash*, co-written with Sam Telford. As Knomad Spock, he has released three critically acclaimed albums.

USAGE NOTE

Choose the biography that fits the format. Please retain book titles, publisher names and co-author credits. For programme notes that require a different word count, contact info@samatarelmi.co.uk.

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Long biography

Samatar Elmi is an award-winning writer, musician, editor and educator whose work brings poetry into conversation with myth, history, diaspora, sound and speculative futures. His debut pamphlet, *Portrait of Colossus* (flipped eye press, 2021), was selected as a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice. His debut full-length collection, *The Epic of Cader Idris* (Bloomsbury, 2024), includes the poem that won the 2021 Geoffrey Dearmer Prize. His poetry has appeared in *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Poetry Review*, *Poetry Wales*, *Magma* and *Iota*, and in anthologies including *More Fiya*, *Filigree*, *After Plath* and *The Echoing Gallery*. He is an Obsidian Fellow and an associate poetry editor at flipped eye press.

Throughout 2026, Elmi is touring nationally with three collections published concurrently: *Agen Bien Fou* (Kulvert Books, 2026), *Reclamations: Disregard Prior Prompt* (Aout Fecit, 2026) and *26 Poems for Cash*, co-written with Sam Telford (Kulvert Books, 2026). Further books are in development for 2027, alongside *After Cordelia*, a stage reimagining of *King Lear* commissioned by Fio Theatre, Cardiff.

As Knomad Spock, Elmi has released *Winter of Discontent*, *A Darker Light* and *Through the Walls*. His music has been reviewed by *Clash*, *Afropunk*, *Buzz* and *Record Collector*, featured on BBC Radio 6, and performed live in session for Janice Long on BBC Wales. He has appeared on records with Chester P and Jehst. His educational work spans training and development, specialist mentoring, neurodiversity, human capital development and access to future skills.

2027 WORK

Forthcoming projects include *Our Eyes Are Crystal Balls*; *Nightmares: Ekphrastic Meditations on Honoria Brown's 'Nightmares' Series*, co-written with Honoria Brown and Will Moorfoot; and *After Cordelia* for Fio Theatre.

CANONICAL CREDITS

Bibliography and discography

Selected bibliography

- *Portrait of Colossus* - flipped eye press, 2021
- *The Epic of Cader Idris* - Bloomsbury, 2024
- *Agen Bien Fou* - Kulvert Books, 2026
- *Reclamations: Disregard Prior Prompt* - Aout Fecit, 2026
- *26 Poems for Cash*, with Sam Telford - Kulvert Books, 2026
- *Our Eyes Are Crystal Balls* - forthcoming, 2027
- *Nightmares*, with Honoria Brown and Will Moorfoot - forthcoming, 2027

Selected discography

- *Preludes* - as Nomad, SFDB, 2017
- *Winter of Discontent* - as Knomad Spock, 2021
- *A Darker Light* - as Knomad Spock, 2024
- *Through the Walls* - as Knomad Spock, 2025
- *000 and 001* - BØMBED BUILDINGS x Knomad Spock
- "Storm Z Meal" - Jehst feat. Samatar Elmi, 2025
- Guest appearances with Chester P and Jehst

SELECTED JOURNALS AND ANTHOLOGIES

Poetry; Prairie Schooner; The Poetry Review; Poetry Wales; Magma; Iota; More Fiya; Filigree; After Plath; The Echoing Gallery.

SELECTED CREDITS

Recognition, platforms and stages

Recognition and roles - 2021 Geoffrey Dearmer Prize winner - Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice - Obsidian Fellow - Associate poetry editor, flipped eye press	Broadcast and press - BBC Radio 4 - BBC Radio 6 - BBC Wales / Janice Long live session - The Guardian poetry roundup - Clash, Afropunk, Buzz and Record Collector
Selected festivals - Laugharne Festival - Latitude Festival - London Literature Festival - Somali Week - Aldeburgh Poetry Festival - Cheltenham Poetry Festival	Selected venues - Southbank Centre - Serpentine Gallery - Whitechapel Gallery - Cardiff Millennium Centre - Oxford House - Rich Mix

CONTACT AND ASSETS

Press, bookings and representation

General, performance, education and press

info@samatarelmi.co.uk

Literary representation

Salma Begum, Greyhound Literary

salma@greyhoundliterary.co.uk

Official links

Website: samatarelmi.co.uk

Instagram: [instagram.com/s_a_m_a_t_a_r_e_l_m_i/](https://www.instagram.com/s_a_m_a_t_a_r_e_l_m_i/)

Bandcamp: knomadspock.bandcamp.com/

Poetry Foundation: poetryfoundation.org/poets/samatar-elmi

PRESS IMAGE

Approved image and credit

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LISTING CHECK

Preferred description: poet, musician, editor and educator. Music is released as Knomad Spock. The official domain is samatarelmi.co.uk.