

Arvon International Poetry Competition 2010

Carol Ann Duffy To Chair Judging Of The 2010 Arvon International Poetry Competition, First Prize £7,500

Britain's Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, will chair the judging panel of the 2010 Arvon International Poetry Competition, which launches on 13 May. This prestigious biennial competition was founded by Ted Hughes in 1980 and is one of the UK's most important open poetry competitions. This year the first prize has increased to £7,500 - the highest ever offered in the competition and one of the most generous prizes available for a single poem. Leading poets Elaine Feinstein and Sudeep Sen will join Carol Ann Duffy to complete the 2010 judging panel.

*The Arvon International Poetry Competition is open to anyone aged 16 or over, from any country. Poems must be written in English, on any subject, and can be a maximum of 42 lines in length. Previous winners of the competition include former Poet Laureate Andrew Motion (1980), Don Paterson (1993) and Siân Hughes (2006). The 2008 competition attracted 6400 entries and was won by Peter Daniels for his poem *Shoreditch Orchid*. The winners of the 2010 competition will be announced at an award ceremony at Free Word in London on 21 October 2010.*

The total prize fund for the 2010 competition is £13,000. The prize fund includes a special prize of £500, which is being offered in association with The Wenlock Poetry Festival. This new poetry festival is based in Shropshire, the county that was home to the First World War poet Wilfred Owen. Wilfred Owen famously wrote 'My subject is war and the pity of war. The poetry is in the pity.' The Wenlock Poetry Festival Prize will be awarded to the poem which, in the judges' opinion, best addresses the theme 'The Pity of War...' The winner of this prize will be invited to read at the 2011 Wenlock Poetry Festival.

Ruth Borthwick, Arvon's National Director said:

'Arvon's competition is a truly international celebration of poetry. We encourage and receive entries from all over the world. That international outlook is reflected in the 2010 judging panel. I'm also delighted by our association with The Wenlock Poetry Festival, whose chosen theme will, I think, inspire some moving entries. We look forward to a vintage competition to mark thirty years since the prize was founded by the great internationalist and Arvon supporter Ted Hughes.'

Andrew Motion said of his success in the first ever Arvon International Poetry Competition:

'Nothing has diminished my gratitude to Arvon, nor my sense of its importance. On the contrary. The prize spurs writers on... and sharpens the profile of poetry. It's part of the carnival of writing, and people need carnivals.'

Proceeds from the competition help bring young people to Arvon to discover the joy of writing poetry for themselves. The Arvon Foundation is a registered charity which has been running week-long residential writing courses at four historic writing houses for over 40 years. Full 2010 course listings can be found on the Arvon website www.arvonfoundation.org.

Entry Information

Opening Date: Thursday 13 May 2010

Closing Date: 5pm, Monday 16 August 2010

Entry Fee: £7 per individual poem entered

How to Enter: Enter and pay online at www.arvonfoundaton.org

Terms & Conditions: Full terms and conditions available online at www.arvonfoundation.org

Prizes

First Prize £7,500

Second Prize £2500

Third Prize £1000

Commendations Three prizes of £500

The Wenlock Poetry Festival Prize for the best poem on the theme 'The Pity of War...' £500

The Judges

Carol Ann Duffy became Britain's Poet Laureate in 2009. She has won numerous awards for her poetry collections, including the Whitbread Poetry Award and the Forward Poetry Prize for Mean Time, and the 2005 T.S. Eliot prize for Rapture. She is also a playwright and author of several books for children, as well as a patron of The Arvon Foundation.

Elaine Feinstein is a prize-winning poet, novelist and biographer. Her translations of the poet Marina Tsvetayeva have remained in print for nearly forty years. Her first novel, *The Circle* (1970) was long listed for The Lost Man Booker Prize in 2010. She received a major Arts Council award to write *The Russian Jerusalem*, which mixes prose and poems, memoirs, and an imaginary descent into the underworld. Her *Collected Poems and Translations* was a Poetry Book Society Special Commendation.

Sudeep Sen was nominated for a Pushcart Prize (USA) for poems included in *Postmarked India: New & Selected Poems*. His award-winning books include *Prayer Flag*, *Distracted Geographies*, *Rain*, and *Aria*. *Blue Nude* and *The HarperCollins Book of English Poetry by Indians* (Editor) are forthcoming. He is editor of the international literary journal *Atlas* and editorial director of the publisher Aark Arts.

Previous Winners

2008 Peter Daniels *Shoreditch Orchid*
2006 Siân Hughes *The Send-Off*
2004 Joe Kane *The Boy Who Nearly Won the Texaco Art Competition*
2002 Mario Petrucci *Half Life*
2000 Henry Shukman *Ararat*
1998 B A Humar *Technical Assistance*
1995 Paul Farley *Laws of Gravity*
1993 Don Paterson *A Private Bottling*
1991 Jacqueline Brown *Thinking Egg*

1989 Sheldon Flory *Halfway Pond*
1987 Selima Hill *The Notebook*
1985 Oliver Reynolds *Rorschach Writing*
1982 John Hartley Williams *Ephraim Destiny's
Perfectly Utter Darkness*
1980 Andrew Motion *The Letter*