

Wigtown Book Festival presents

Wigtown Poetry Competition

2010

in association with the Scottish Poetry Library

1st Prize £2500

Runner-up £750

Eight additional prizes of £50 each

Judge: Liz Lochhead

Gaelic Prize £500

In association with the Gaelic Books Council

Judge: Meg Bateman

Scotland's national poetry competition is supported by



StenaLine



Dumfries, Galloway & Galloway

SCOTTISH POETRY LIBRARY

Comhairle nan Leabhraichean
The Gaelic Books Council

SCOTLAND
on SUNDAY

Entry Form (please complete in block capitals)

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Total number of poems entered: _____

Title(s) of poem(s)

Please use additional sheet of paper if necessary

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

Gaelic entries included? **Yes / No** (please circle as appropriate)

Total payment £ _____ please make cheques payable to Wigtown Festival Company
(see overleaf for fee structure)

To pay by credit card

Visa / Mastercard / Delta / Switch / Maestro (please circle as appropriate)

Valid from ____ / ____ Expiry ____ / ____ Issue Number (Switch / Maestro) ____

Card Number _____

Three digit security code _____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Please send to Wigtown Poetry Competition, Wigtown Festival Company, County Buildings,
Wigtown, DG8 9JH.

Would you like us to enter your details onto a database to receive further information about the
Wigtown Book Festival? **Yes / No** (please circle as appropriate)

The Wigtown Poetry Competition is the largest poetry competition in Scotland

1st Prize £2500

Runner-up £750

Eight additional prizes of £50 each

Gaelic Prize £500

- The winning poem will be published in the Scotsman or its sister paper Scotland on Sunday, and the poet will be invited to appear at the Wigtown Book Festival in 2010
- The winner, runner-up and eight commended poems will be published in a collection by Wigtown Book Festival
- Closing date: 5pm Friday 12th February 2010
- Winners notified by Wednesday 8th April 2010
- Prizegiving will take place in Wigtown on Saturday 1st May 2010
- Winners will be published on www.wigtownbookfestival.com from Monday 10th May 2009

The Judges



Liz Lochhead

We are delighted to announce that one of Scotland's most respected and versatile poets and dramatists, Liz Lochhead, will judge the competition this year. Lochhead is known for mixing demotic language and warm wit with a razor-sharp intellect and a passion for the classics. Her collections of verse include *Bagpipe Muzak*, *The Colour of Black and White* and *Dreaming Frankenstein*. *Blood and Ice*, *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Cut Off* and *Perfect Days* are among some 18 works for the stage. She has won the Saltire Society Scottish Book of the Year Award for her adaptation of Euripides' *Medea* and has twice won a Scottish Arts Council Book Award. A fine performer of her own work, Lochhead lives in Glasgow. She was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Edinburgh in 2000.



Meg Bateman

The Gaelic prize will be judged by renowned Gaelic poet Meg Bateman. Bateman teaches literature and philosophy in Gaelic at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye. Her collections *Aotromachd / Lightness* and *Soirbheas / Fair Wind* were short-listed for the Scottish Book of the Year in 1997 and 2007. She has won several Scottish Arts Council Book Awards and various poetry competitions.

Wigtown — Scotland's National Book Town

Wigtown is a historic market town on the south-west coast of Scotland. It is home to 900 people, a malt whisky distillery and, since 1988, a quarter of a million books. See www.wigtown-booktown.co.uk.

Now in its 12th year, the Wigtown Book Festival takes place from 24th September to 3rd October. See www.wigtownbookfestival.com

Fee structure

The first poem submitted costs £6.50.

Multiple entries: the first three poems cost a total of £17.00. Each subsequent entry after the first three costs £5 or a total of £12 for every additional block of 3, ie:

1 poem £6.50; 2 poems £13; 3 poems £17; 4 poems £22; 5 poems £27; 6 poems £29; 7 poems £34; 8 poems £39; 9 poems £41; 10 poems £46; 11 poems £51; 12 poems £53

Rules

- All poems are judged anonymously and the name of the poet must not appear on the manuscript.
- Each poem must be typed on a separate sheet of paper.
- For postal entries please include two copies of each poem.
- Poems must not exceed 40 lines (not including title).
- All entrants must be 16 years of age or over.
- Entries may be in English, Scots/Irish Gaelic.
- The competition is open to anyone throughout and outside the United Kingdom.
- Poems must not be previously published, accepted for publication or currently entered into another competition.
- There is no restriction on the number of poems submitted by each applicant, provided the appropriate entry fee is included.
- Competition entries cannot be returned.
- Alterations cannot be made to poems once they have been submitted.
- All poems will be read initially by a team at the Scottish Poetry Library prior to the final judging.
- Winners will be notified by Wednesday 8th April 2010. Winning poem and runner up entries will appear in the Scotsman or its sister paper Scotland on Sunday and winners will be listed on the Wigtown Book Festival website from Monday 10th May. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- No employee or board member of Wigtown Festival Company, Dumfries and Galloway Arts Association, the Gaelic Books Council or Scottish Poetry Library may enter the competition.
- The copyright of each poem remains with the author. The authors of the winning poems grant the Wigtown Festival Company the right to use the poems in publicity material for one year from 5th April 2010.