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# A chance to write your name in the stars: The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award opens for entries

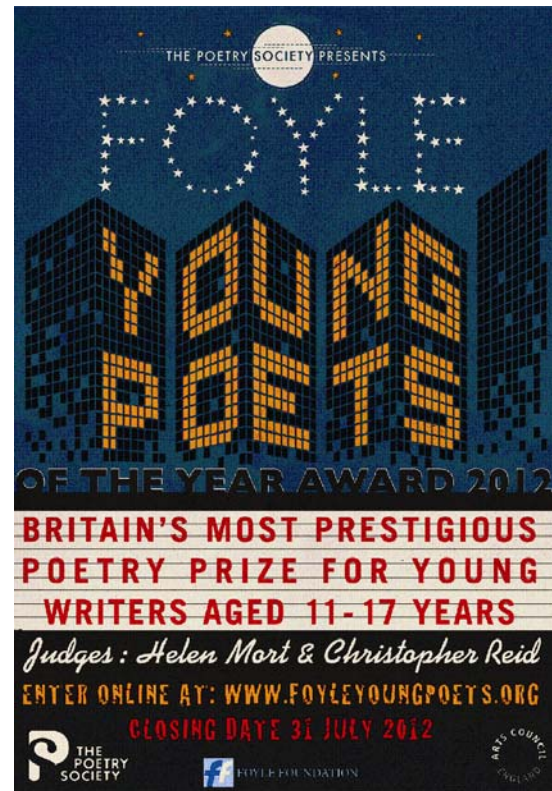
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**Open for Submissions: 12 March**

**Deadline: 31st July 2012**

**Judges: Helen Mort and Christopher Reid**

**[www.foyleyoungpoets.org](http://www.foyleyoungpoets.org)**



The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Poster Artwork by James Brown

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*“Entering the Foyle Young Poets of the Year competition was one of the best things I’ve ever done; judging it is a dream I didn’t think would come true. It proves what a good idea dreaming is! I’m looking forward to reading poems that move, surprise, intrigue and inspire me, poems that pull away my chair while I’m not looking.”* **Former Foyle Winner and 2012 judge, Helen Mort**

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award is an opportunity for any young poet aged 11-17 to accelerate their writing career. Since it began 15 years ago the Award has kick-started the career of some of today’s most exciting new voices, including this year’s judge **Helen Mort**, a highly successful poet whose next collection is to be published by Chatto & Windus (whose alumni include A.S. Byatt, Toni Morrison and poet Ruth Padel). Helen is joined by the acclaimed Costa Award winning poet, **Christopher Reid**, on the judging panel.

Last year’s competition attracted entries from a staggering 7,215 young people, and the quality of the poems was impressive as ever. The award is recognised as a career-changing competition of cultural significance nationally and internationally, with previous winners coming from as far as New Zealand, Malaysia and the U.S.A. The press attention and number of entries it has garnered in recent year is testimony to the gravitas of the competition. To reach the top 100 is truly to be marked out as a rising literary star.



2011 Foyle Judges



2011 Foyle Winners 2011



2011 Foyle Winner

The phrase ‘Former Foyle Young Poet’ is now commonly found in professional biographies as alumni continue to make their mark on the wider literary world, appearing on bookshelves and at festivals the world over. Other notable winners include **Caroline Bird**, who after winning the award had her first collection of poetry published by Carcanet at just 16, and was one of the shortlisted Shell Women of the Future in 2011; **Sarah Howe**, who has been published widely, received the Eric Gregory Award and has appeared on Radio 4 alongside Ian Macmillan; **Annie Katchinska**, published as a Faber New Poet at the age of 20; and **Caleb Klaces**, whose first collection has been shortlisted for the Crashaw Prize.



2012 Foyle Judge, Helen Mort



2012 Foyle Judge, Christopher Reid

The top fifteen poets will be published in an anthology going out to more than 20,000 people worldwide in March 2013. There are two prizes available for the 15 overall winners of the award. The 14-17 year olds get the chance to attend a week-long residential course at The Hurst in Shropshire, one of the prestigious Arvon centres, where they will be tutored by this year’s judges Christopher Reid and Helen Mort. The younger age range winners (11-14 year olds) will receive a visit to their school from a professional poet, followed by distance mentoring. The 85 Commended Winners also receive book prizes and a year’s Youth Membership of the Poetry Society. All 100 winners of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award benefit from ongoing support and encouragement, via publication, performance, promotion and internship opportunities throughout the UK.

Any young person writing in English can enter the competition, whether they have been writing for a long time or just started, all they need to have is a passionate engagement with words, and wonder.

The **Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2012** is supported by the **Foyle Foundation**, and is free to enter.

To Enter	Enter online at <a href="http://www.foyleyoungpoets.org">www.foyleyoungpoets.org</a>	Deadline for entries	July 31 <sup>st</sup> 2012
	Request an entry form by writing to Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 22 Betterton Street London WC2H 9BX	Ages	11-17
	Or email <a href="mailto:fyp@poetrysociety.org.uk">fyp@poetrysociety.org.uk</a>	Other information	The competition is free to enter. Poets can enter more than one poem, of any length, on any theme.

# The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award

Founded by the Poetry Society in 1998, the Foyle Young Poets of the Year is the largest and most prestigious award for young poets aged 11-17. The competition is free to enter and poems can be on any theme, and of any length. It receives entries from more than 7,000 young people each year. With the competition as its focus, The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award also incorporates a year-round programme of activity aimed at encouraging creativity and literacy in young people, supported by teaching resources and additional poet-led opportunities in schools. The scheme also recognises and nurtures best practice in creative writing teaching, identifying committed 'teacher trailblazers' to act as teacher mentors. [www.foyleyoungpoets.org](http://www.foyleyoungpoets.org)

*"The Foyle Young Poets Awards are important beckoning points for younger writers. They recognise a poet's first adventures into a public space for their poetry."*

David Morley, Professor of Writing at the University of Warwick

## The Poetry Society

The Poetry Society was founded in 1909 to promote a "more general recognition and appreciation of poetry". Since then, it has grown into one of Britain's most dynamic arts organisations, representing British poetry both nationally and internationally. Today it has nearly 4,000 members worldwide and publishes the leading poetry magazine, *Poetry Review*. With innovative education and commissioning programmes, and a packed calendar of performances, readings and competitions, the Poetry Society champions poetry for all ages. As well as the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, the Poetry Society runs the National Poetry Competition, one of the world's longest-running and most prestigious prizes for an individual poem, and the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry – the prize founded by Carol Ann Duffy with honorarium the Poet Laureate traditionally received from HM the Queen. [www.poetrysociety.org.uk](http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk)

## The Foyle Foundation

The Foyle Foundation is an independent grant-making trust supporting UK charities which, since its formation in 2001, has become a major funder of the arts and learning. The Foyle Foundation has invested in the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award since 2001, one of its longest partnerships. During this time it has trebled its support and enabled the competition to develop and grow to become one of the premier literary awards in the country. [www.foylefoundation.org.uk](http://www.foylefoundation.org.uk)

## Christopher Reid

Christopher Reid is a Hong Kong-born British poet, essayist, cartoonist, and writer. He has been nominated twice for the Whitbread Awards in 1996 and in 1997. He has worked as poetry editor at Faber & Faber and Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Hull. His latest collections are *The Song of Lunch* (2009), and *A Scattering* (2009), in memory of his late wife, Lucinda. *A Scattering* was shortlisted for the 2009 Forward Poetry Prize (Best Poetry Collection of the Year) and the 2009 T. S. Eliot Prize. In January 2010 he was awarded the 2009 Costa Book Award for *A Scattering*; the work won in the poetry category, and overall Best Book of the Year, becoming the first poet to take the overall prize since Seamus Heaney in 1999.

## Helen Mort

Helen Mort was born in Sheffield in 1985. She has published two pamphlets with tall-lighthouse press, *the shape of every box* and *a pint for the ghost* (a Poetry Book Society Choice). Her first full collection, *Division Street* will be published by Chatto & Windus in 2013. A previous winner of the Foyle Young Poets Competition, Helen received an Eric Gregory Award in 2007. From 2010-11, she was Poet in Residence at The Wordsworth Trust.

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## Contacts

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### For further information / Use of pictures / Interviews

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# Websites



[www.idealgeneration.co.uk](http://www.idealgeneration.co.uk)

For:

- Online Press Office
- Client list
- Company contact detail



[www.foleyoungpoets.org](http://www.foleyoungpoets.org)

For:

- Information
- Previous Winners