

Last Call for Entries

Final countdown to
the UK's most
popular poetry prize
for young people

Deadline for entries 31 July 2010



© Phoebe Power, previous winner

'Becoming a Foyle Young Poet is about more than just winning a competition. It is like being given the keys to doors you didn't know existed. Entry is free and can be done instantly online - what are you waiting for? Let your poem be heard! - Phoebe Power, Foyle Young Poet of the Year 2009

If you are 11-17 years of age, the Poetry Society's **Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award** opens up exciting opportunities for your writing to be recognized and given the chance to flourish.

Since it began 13 years ago the award has identified some of the most exciting new voices in contemporary poetry. These include Caroline Bird, who after winning the award had her first collection of poetry published aged just 16, Jay Bernard whose first collections *Your Sign is Cuckoo girl* was published in 2008, and Richard O'Brien who set up the highly successful e-zine *Pomegranate* with other young writers. Many past winners such as Helen Mort can also be seen performing their work at festivals across the UK such as Latitude and the Big Chill.

It doesn't just acknowledge this new talent - it provides an opportunity for this talent to flourish. There are two prizes available for the fifteen overall winners. 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 Jane Draycott and Luke Kennard. The younger age range winners (11-14 year olds) will receive a visit to their school from a professional poet, followed by distance mentoring.

One of this years judge's Luke Kennard urges young people not to let uncertainty stop them entering: *I lie awake at 3 a.m. thinking of reasons not to send my work off. Maybe I'll write something better next month or next year. The more enlightened part of me knows that one of the best poems ever written is William Carlos Williams's apology for eating someone else's plums; that we can only understand the great themes, the political, the spiritual through specifics and in strange, small, and seemingly insignificant things. So all I'm saying is don't be like me lying there terrified at 3 a.m.: send in your work!*

The deadline for the **Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award** is 31 July 2010. So what are you waiting for? Sending in a poem may be your first step toward becoming one of our great poets of the future.

The **Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award** is sponsored by the Foyle Foundation.

To Enter	Enter online at www.foyleyoungpoets.org	Deadline for Entries	July 31 st 2010
	Request an entry form by writing to Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, 22 Betterton Street London WC2H 9BX		
	Or email - fyp@poetrysociety.org.uk		
Ages	11 - 17		

Editor's Notes

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award

Established in 1998, the Foyle Young Poets of the Year is now the key award for young writers aged 11-17. The competition is free to enter and poems can be on any theme, and of any length. It receives over 14,000 entries from young people across the UK and worldwide each year. Poet Ian McMillan is very proud to act as Ambassador for the prize.

"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," Prof. David Morley, National Teaching Fellow, Warwick University.

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

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 organizations, representing British poetry both nationally and internationally.

Today it has nearly 4000 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. This year also sees the inaugural Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry – the prize founded by Carol Ann Duffy from her honorarium as Poet Laureate.

"The Poetry Society is the heart and hands of poetry in the UK – a centre which pours out energy to all parts of the poetry-body, and a dexterous set of operations which arrange and organize poetry's various manifestations. It has a long distinguished history, and has never been so vital, or so vitalizing as it is now." Sir Andrew Motion.

Jane Draycott

Jane Draycott's latest collection *Over* was published in April 2009 by Carcanet/OxfordPoets and was shortlisted for the 2009 T S Eliot Prize. Nominated three times for the Forward Prize for Poetry, her first two full collections *Prince Rupert's Drop* and *The Night Tree* (Carcanet/Oxford) were both Poetry Book Society Recommendations. Other collections include from Two Rivers Press, *Christina the Astonishing* (with Peter Hay and Lesley Saunders) and *Tideway*, a long sequence of poems about London's working river (with paintings by Peter Hay) written while poet-in-residence at the River & Rowing Museum. Her audio work with Elizabeth James has won several awards including BBC Radio 3 Poem-for-Radio and a London Sound Art Award. Winner of the Keats-Shelley Poetry Prize in 2002 and nominated as one of the PBS Next Generation poets in 2004, she was a Stephen Spender Prize-winner in 2008 and teaches on postgraduate writing programmes at Oxford University and the University of Lancaster. Her contemporary version of the medieval dream-vision *Pearl* is forthcoming in 2010 from Carcanet/OxfordPoets and is supported by Arts Council England South East.

Luke Kennard

Luke Kennard was born in Kingston Upon Thames in 1981 and grew up in Luton. He writes and publishes poetry and short stories and has written for the stage, taking numerous productions to the Edinburgh Fringe. He holds a PhD in English from the University of Exeter and lectures in creative writing at the University of Birmingham. He won an Eric Gregory Award in 2005 and his first collection of prose poems *The Solex Brothers* was published later that year by Stride. His second collection *The Harbour Beyond the Movie* was published by Salt in 2007 and was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection, making him the youngest poet ever to be shortlisted. His new collection, *The Migraine Hotel* is available now from Salt and was recognised by the Guardian Review as a 'Treat in Store'. His criticism appears in Poetry London and the Times Literary Supplement.

Contacts

For further information / Use of pictures / Interviews

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www.foleyoungpoets.org

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