****

**Poet of the Year Competition 2024**

**Terms and Conditions**

1. Entry is open to all adults over the age of 18 years on 3 October 2024. National and international entries are welcome. Any number of poems may be submitted but no alterations may be made to a poem once it has been submitted.
2. The closing date for the Competition is Friday 7 June 2024. Entries may be emailed to tina@canterburyfestival.co.uk or posted/delivered to: Poet of the Year Competition, Festival Office, 8 Orange Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2JA, by midnight on that date. Entries will not be returned so please keep a copy.
3. **An entry form (downloadable from the Festival website) must accompany each submission** **and a £5 entry fee paid for each poem**. Only one entry form and one payment, appropriate for the number of poems submitted, need be sent. Payment may be made by PayPal - an invoice, which can be paid by card, will be issued upon receipt of emailed entries - or by cheque made payable to *Canterbury Festival Friends.* **Should payment not be received with hard copy entries or within five days of the issue of the PayPal invoice, the poems will not be entered into the Competition.**
4. The poem or poem sequence may be on any subject and in any style but **must not exceed 60 lines in length** excluding title and line breaks**.** It should be principally in English; incidental foreign words/phrases and the use of regional variants are permitted. Translations of poems written in a foreign language will not be accepted.
5. Entries are judged anonymously; **the poet’s name and address must not appear on the poem itself.**
6. Handwritten entries cannot be accepted. Hard copy entries should be typed in black ink on A4 paper with the poem’s title appearing on each page. **Please do not staple.**
7. Entries must be the poet’s **original, unpublished work** (including any website, public blog, online forum or broadcasting medium) and **should not have been placed in the top three (or won a prize)  in any competition or accepted for publication before 3 October 2024.** Please note all entries will be checked. Ownership remains with the poet at all times; the Festival will not assume any share in copyright. The Festival Friends are not responsible for any claim of plagiarism which will be directed to the poet alone.
8. Once submitted the poems will be deemed to have been freely entered into the Competition and **may not be withdrawn at any time unless under exceptional circumstances and with the express permission of the judges.**
9. Poems will be sent anonymously to the judging panel:
* Luigi Marchini (Chair, SaveAs Writers Group)
* Derek Sellen (Poet of the Year 2023)
* Mara Adamitz Scrupe (Award Winning Poet and Artist)
1. The Competition organisers reserve the right to change the judging panel.
2. The judges’ decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into concerning the decision.
3. A longlist of entries will be selected and **published in the 2024 anthology**. These must be in electronic format; if submitted in hard copy longlisted poets may be asked to re-submit the selected poem(s) by email. Longlisted poets will receive a free copy of the anthology which will also be on general sale.
4. A shortlist will be chosen from the longlisted poems and the poets asked to read their poems at the Awards Evening on 3 October 2024. If they prefer not to read themselves, they may nominate a reader or request the judges to do this on their behalf.
5. The Awards Evening will take place on Thursday 3 October 2024 via Zoom when the winning poems will be announced. Room opens at 7pm and readings begin at 7.30pm. The **Winner** will be named *Canterbury Festival Poet of the Year* and receive **£200**. **£100** will be awarded for the **second** and **£50** for the **third places.**