

# Bob Dylan Voted Top Inspiration for New Generation of Young Poets

Survey reveals what truly  
drives the creative mind



*I Will See Great Things: Poems by The Foyle Young Poets of the Year,*  
anthology book cover

As Bob Dylan turns 70, his influence remains strong. A survey carried out on three hundred Foyle Young Poets shows exactly who and what most inspires their writing

On Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, **Bob Dylan**, voice of the '60s, will celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Besides being a multi-award-winning singer-songwriter, touring worldwide for the past five decades, he has published three books and his painting has been exhibited in major art galleries both sides of the Atlantic. Perhaps, then, it is no surprise that he is still so revered, and so inspirational to aspiring young creatives.

**The Poetry Society** recently carried out an extensive survey, questioning commended poets from the last three years of the **Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award** competition. The young people, aged between 11 and 17, and from countries throughout the world, were asked which individual musician and which genre of music most inspired their writing. The **Foyle Young Poets** were also asked who would be their dream musician to collaborate with.

**Bob Dylan** came out on top as both the most inspirational individual for the poets and the dream collaborative partner, followed in second place in both categories by **Regina Spektor**. Other artists suggested included **David Bowie, Florence and the Machine, Leonard Cohen, Morrissey** and **Pete Doherty**.

*"My dream collaboration would be Bob Dylan; he's brilliant, creative, and most importantly, soulful."*

**Sarah Henry, Foyle Young Poet 2010**

*"Listening obsessively to all my Bob Dylan albums gives me inspiration."*

**Daisy Syme-Taylor, Foyle Young Poet 2010**

Surprisingly, **Classical** music was by far the highest rated genre, receiving over twice as many votes as others, including **Jazz, Pop, Alternative** and **Punk**.

The **Foyle Young Poet of the Year Award** is a wonderful opportunity for young poets to add their name to an exciting list of young poets who have gone on to develop careers in poetry. Poet, musician and ambassador of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award, **Ian McMillan**, feels the potency of these young voices shouldn't be underestimated, and that **Bob Dylan** himself would recognise it.

*"I wish Bob Dylan could take a look at the work being produced by the Foyle Young Poets; he'd see that, like him, they see the world in a new way, they use language that sparkles and shines and they know how to grab an audience's attention. In years to come I'm sure that phrases created by some or all of Foyle Young Poets will be part of the language like Dylan's lyrics are."*



Judge of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2011 Imtiaz Dharker  
© Simon Powell



Judge of the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2011 Glyn Maxwell  
© Kate Eshelby

Now in its 14th year, the **Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award** has already given us some of the most exciting young voices in poetry: **Caroline Bird**, who had her first collection published aged just 15 and is now on volume number three; **Helen Mort**, the youngest writer-in-residence at the Wordsworth Trust and a regular crowd-gatherer at festivals such as Latitude and the Big Chill; and **Jay Bernard**, who was chosen along with leading poets, **Jackie Kay** and **Jo Shapcott** to read at the re-opening of the Swan Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

The **Foyle Young Poets of The Year Award 2011** is supported by the **Foyle Foundation**.

To Enter	Enter online at <a href="http://www.foyleyoungpoets.org">www.foyleyoungpoets.org</a>	Deadline for Entries	July 31 <sup>st</sup> 2011
	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.

---

# Editor's Notes

---

## Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award

Established in 1998, the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 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 20,000 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. To enter and for more information go to [www.foyleyoungpoets.org](http://www.foyleyoungpoets.org)

## 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)

## Imtiaz Dharker

Imtiaz Dharker was born in Pakistan, raised in Glasgow, and now lives between London and Mumbai. She is the author of five poetry collections: *Purdah and other poems* (1988); *Postcards from god* (1997); *I speak for the devil* (2001); *The terrorist at my table* (2006); and *Leaving Fingerprints* (2009) (Bloodaxe). She works as a documentary film-maker in India, and is also an artist, having shown solo exhibitions in the UK, India and Hong Kong. Her work has been described by critic Bruce King as "consciously feminist, consciously political, consciously that of a multiple outsider, someone who knows her own mind, rather than someone full of doubt and liberal ironies".

---

## 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, and the 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

## Glyn Maxwell

Glyn Maxwell is an established and critically-acclaimed poet, novelist and playwright. His collection *The Breakage* (1998) was shortlisted for both the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Forward Poetry Prize for Best Collection, and *The Nerve* (2002) won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. He has written a number of plays including *Broken Journey* (*Time Out* Critics' Choice), *The Lifeblood*, *Any Road* and *The Only Girl in the World*. His radio play, *Childminders*, was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 in 2002. He has also written opera libretti, including *The Girl of Sand* with composer Elena Langer, and a libretto based on Euripides' *The Birds* composed by Ed Hughes which performed at the City of London Festival 2005. *Blue Burneau* (1994), his first novel, was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award. He is currently adapting Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* for Moving Pictures Theatre Company. His latest poetry collection, *Hide Now*, was published in 2008, and shortlisted for the 2008 T. S. Eliot Prize and the 2009 Forward Poetry Prize (Best Poetry Collection of the Year).

# Contacts

For further information / Use of pictures / Interviews

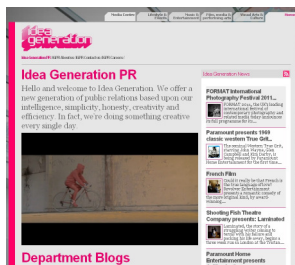
Idea Generation: +44(0)20 7749 6850

Tani Burns: [tani@ideageneration.co.uk](mailto:tani@ideageneration.co.uk)

Emily Airton: [emily@ideageneration.co.uk](mailto:emily@ideageneration.co.uk)

## Ends

## Websites



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

For:

- Online Press Office
- Client list
- Company contact detail



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

For:

- Information
- Previous Winners