

JANE MARTIN POETRY PRIZE

2024

About the Jane Martin Poetry Prize

Girton College is delighted to invite entries for the 2024 Jane Martin Poetry Prize. Now in its 14th year, the prize is a key part of the College's support for poetry and will be of interest to all those who are serious about literary excellence.

The competition will be judged by experts drawn from across the literary world and academia. We are thrilled that this year the panel will include Abigail Parry and Bohdan Piasecki.

Building on the success of previous years, the 2024 winner will receive not just a cash prize of £700, but the opportunity to give a reading (live or pre-recorded) at a celebratory event, at which the prize will be awarded. There will also be a second cash prize of £300.

About Girton College

Girton is a college of the University of Cambridge. Established in 1869 on the principles of equality and diversity, Girton played a leading role in opening higher education to women. Fully mixed for over 30 years, the College now prides itself on offering the highest quality of learning to all, regardless of background.

Girton has contributed to the education and shared in the lives of many celebrated authors and has a strong tradition of supporting creative writing. Alumni include Gwyneth Lewis (First National poet of Wales), Wendy Holden (*School for Husbands*, *Marrying Up*) and Emma Donoghue (*Room*, *the Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits*).

The Panel

The shortlisted entries for the 2024 Jane Martin Poetry Prize will be judged by an eminent panel, led by:

Abigail Parry Abigail Parry is the author of *Jinx* and *I Think We're Alone Now*, both published by Bloodaxe. *Jinx* deals in trickery, gameplay, masks and costume, and has been described as “a party in a bag” (Declan Ryan) and “vaudevillian sleaze” (Stephanie Sy-Quia). *I Think We're Alone Now* investigates intimacy and failures of intimacy, and was shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize 2023.



Bohdan Piasecki is a poet from Poland based in Birmingham. Bohdan was awarded the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem: Performed in 2023, the category's inaugural year.

Bohdan founded the first poetry slam in Poland before moving to the UK to get a doctorate in translation studies. He has worked as Director of Education on the Spoken Word in Education MA course at Goldsmiths University, and was the Midlands Producer for Apples and Snakes between 2010 and 2017. He is Assistant Professor in Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham. He also works as Creative Producer, and sits on the board of the Poetry Translation Centre.



About Jane Martin

The Prize is named in memory of Jane Martin. Jane studied Classics at Girton, graduating in 1981. She retained an affection for the College and felt strong bonds with those who had taught and supported her. Jane had always taken great pleasure in writing. On her passing, her father chose to endow a national prize based at Girton for outstanding poetry, to be named after her.

How to enter

Entry rules for the 2024 Jane Martin Poetry Prize are:

- 1. Entrants must be resident in the UK and (on February 1st 2024) be between 18 and 30 years of age.**
- Valid entries will be written in English and consist of a maximum of two poems of no more than two sides of A4 in (total) length.
- There is no fee for submissions but entries are limited to two poems per person per year, submitted as one entry.
- The judges may, at their discretion, request further samples of work from short-listed candidates.
- The first prize for the winning poet is £700 and £300 for the second prize, though the panel reserves the right to distribute this.
- Entries will be judged anonymously.
- Previous winners are not permitted to enter again.
- There is a shortlisting process undertaken by Girton's Fellows in English.
- We regret that copies of poetry can not be returned.
- Poems submitted must not have been previously published.
- The prize will open on 25th January 2024 and close at noon on 15th March 2024. The winner will be notified by mid April.
- Girton College may include work from the winning entry in its Annual Review and other college publications/media.

Entries will be submitted on-line as one PDF document here:

https://app.casc.cam.ac.uk/fas_live/jmp24/

If there are any problems contact poetryprize@girton.cam.ac.uk



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