

Postal Entry Form

Surname:

Forename:

Address:

Postcode/zipcode

Phone (incl. international code if applicable):

Email:

I enclose..... poems @ £8 for the first poem (and £5 for each subsequent poem)

AND £..... payment by cheque/postal order in sterling made payable to Arran Theatre and Arts Trust Ltd.

OR I have paid online by Paypal. Reference:

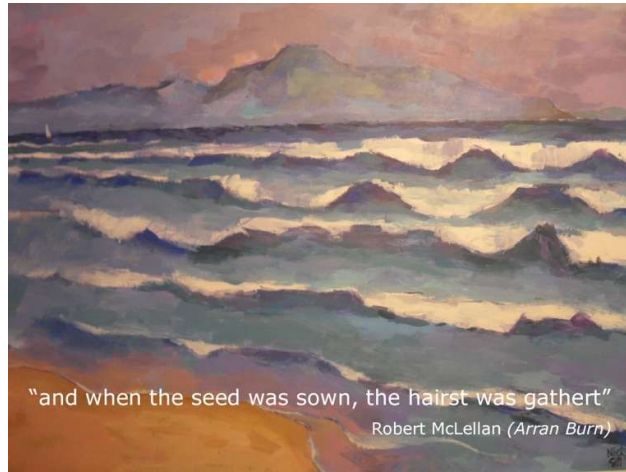
Titles: (Continue if necessary on separate sheet.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How did you hear about this competition?

Online Entries: the quickest and easiest way to enter is online. You will be able to upload your entry till midnight on the 15th June 2026 and pay the entry fee securely via the website using Paypal or using a UK-issued bank card.

Postal Entries: entries must be accompanied by a completed entry form (photocopies accepted) and received (or postmarked) on or before 15th June 2026. For confirmation your entry has arrived please enclose a stamped addressed postcard marked 'Acknowledgement'. Post your completed entry form attached to your payment and **two** copies of each poem (no staples please) to: The Competition Organiser, McLellan Poetry Competition 2026, The Yellow Land, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran KA27 8PZ, Scotland, United Kingdom.



McLELLAN POETRY PRIZE 2026

JUDGE: GERDA STEVENSON

£1000 prizes for English poem and Scots poem

Commendations as Judge sees fit

Closing date: 15th June 2026

More information and online entry at www.arrantheatreandarts@gmail.com



Arran Theatre and Arts Trust,
Scottish Charity No. SC006027



The McLellan Poetry Prize is awarded by the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust Ltd. Now in its eighteenth year, past judges have included Kathleen Jamie, Robert Crawford, Jackie Kay, Peter and Ann Sansom, Michael Laskey, Simon Armitage, David Constantine Maura Dooley and Sinéad Morrissey, Luke Wright, Hollie McNish, Joelle Taylor, Jim Mckintosh, William Letford and Jim Carruth.

This year's judge will be **Gerda Stevenson**



Attribution: Anna Wiraszka

Gerda Stevenson is an award-winning Scottish writer (in English and Scots), as well as actor, film and theatre director, and singer/songwriter. She has presented her poetry and prose at literary festivals throughout the UK and across Europe. Her stage play, *FEDERER VERSUS MURRAY* toured to New York, sponsored by the Scottish Government. Her poetry collections include: *IF THIS WERE REAL*, and *QUINES: Poems in Tribute to Women of Scotland* (both also published in Rome by Edizioni Ensemble in Italian translations), *TOMORROW'S FEAST*, and two collections of short stories, *LETTING GO*, and *CAT WUMMAN*. Nominations include: for the Gilder/Coigney International Theatre Award (New York), the Trad Awards as Scots Singer of the Year for an album of her own songs, *Night Touches Day*, and three times for the Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland. The founder of Scotland's leading women's theatre company, Stellar Quines, she has directed and appeared in many theatre productions and films, including *Braveheart*, winning BAFTA for her performance in Margaret Tait's feature film *Blue Black Permanent*. (170 words)

Competition Rules

- The competition is open to anyone except members of Arran theatre and Arts Trust. You may enter any number of poems and on any subject.
- Poems should be of no more than 80 lines (excluding title), in English or Scots and your own original work (no translations). AI generated work is prohibited.
- Poems must not have won a prize in any other competition or have been published, self-published or accepted for publication in print or online at the time of the closing date. Entrants must notify the organisers promptly of any change in circumstances that occurs after the date of entry.
- Each poem should be on a separate sheet in A4 format (one side only). Poems will be judged anonymously and must NOT include the poet's name.
- No alterations may be made once an entry has been received, nor fees refunded.
- The entry fee is £8 for the first per poem and £5 each for subsequent poem submitted on the same form.
- If payment has not been made already online, please send cheque (in sterling) from a UK bank made out to Arran Theatre and Arts Trust Ltd.
- Copyright remains with the author but Arran Theatre and Arts Trust reserves the right to publish winning and shortlisted poems for 2 years from the date the results are announced.
- The judge's decision is final. Neither she nor the organisers will enter into any correspondence. Entry implies acceptance of all the rules and failure to comply will result in disqualification.
- Prize-winners will be notified individually before the end of July and invited to read at the award ceremony with Gerda Stevenson on the Isle of Arran, on Friday, 4th September 2026. Electronic copies of the winning poems with biographies and photos will be required from the winners. The results of the competition with copies of the poems will be published on the competition website within one week of the award ceremony.
- The competition organisers reserve the right to change the judge if necessary and not to award prizes if, in the judge's opinion, such action is justified.