

'Befitting Emblems of Adversity'

Lyric and Crisis in Northern Irish Poetry 1966 – 2006

A Lannan Literary Symposium & Festival
Georgetown University
April 17 – 18, 2007

The publication forty years ago of Seamus Heaney's *Death of a Naturalist* sounded the first notes of a new generation of Irish poets. Shortly thereafter, these notes were challenged in the public sphere by the harsher sounds of sectarian faction. How poetry managed not only to preserve its own domain and dignity in the midst of such turmoil but by did so in a manner which gained the sympathetic attention of a worldwide audience is the topic of the 2007 Lannan Literary Symposium.

Poetry readings, talks, and roundtable discussions will take place over two days at Georgetown University and at the National Geographic Society in downtown Washington, DC.

Paul Muldoon	Ciaran Carson	Michael Longley	Medbh McGuckian
Leontia Flynn	Gerald Dawe	Edna Longley	Sinead Morrissey
Nick Laird	Greg Delanty	Frank Ormsby	Bernard O'Donoghue
Nicholas Allen	Patrick Crotty	Coilín Owens	Jefferson Holdridge
George O'Brien			Christina Mahony

*I*n Conversation

Seamus Heaney with Dennis O'Driscoll
Video recording (Dublin: March 1, 2007)

s p o n s o r s

Lannan Foundation

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland | Queen's University | National Geographic Society |
The Department of Culture, Arts, and Leisure (Northern Ireland)

Office of the College Dean | Department of English

Copley Formal Lounge (Copley) and the InterCultural Center Auditorium (ICC) are located at 37th & O Streets, at Georgetown University. All events at Georgetown are free and open to the public. The National Geographic Society Auditorium is located at 1145 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Tickets for the reading on April 18 may be purchased online at NGLIVE.org or by calling the National Geographic ticket office at 202 857-7700.

**‘BEFITTING EMBLEMS OF ADVERSITY’
LYRIC AND CRISIS IN NORTHERN IRISH POETRY 1966 - 2006
Georgetown University**

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM I: Reception Politics (Copley)

The history and tendencies of the ways in which Northern Irish poetry has been received within the Anglophone critical establishments. **Frank Ormsby, Bernard O’Donoghue, Coilín Owens, & Jefferson Holdridge** (moderator).

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM II: Theories of Witness, Subjects of Trauma: Writing Violence (Copley)

The cultural authority and social relevance of poetry as a source of testimony and medium of record. **Gerald Dawe, Greg Delanty, Christina Hunt Mahony, & Nicholas Allen** (moderator).

4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

POETRY READING (Copley)

Names and places: **Frank Ormsby** and **Greg Delanty** read from their work.

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

KEYNOTE LECTURE (Copley)

“Yeats, MacNeice and the ‘Troubles’ Lyric.” **Edna Longley** addresses tradition and form in the genesis of Northern Irish poetry.

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

POETRY READING (Copley)

At home in the world: a poetry reading by **Gerald Dawe** and **Bernard O’Donoghue**.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

11 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

VIDEO DIALOGUE (ICC)

“Sing yourself to where the singing comes from”: **Seamus Heaney** in conversation with **Dennis O’Driscoll**. Video recording made at Dublin, Ireland, March 1, 2007.

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11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SYMPOSIUM III: Lyric and Crisis (ICC)

The availability of the lyric mode to the historical moment, and the pressure on the form exerted by that moment. Is there a center that holds? How might it be identified and spoken of? **Ciaran Carson, Michael Longley, Paul Muldoon, Medbh McGuckian, & Patrick Crotty** (moderator).

2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m.

POETRY READING (ICC)

Lyric renewed: new poetry from Northern Ireland. **Sinead Morrissey, Leontia Flynn, & Nick Laird.**

7:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

POETRY READING (National Geographic Society)

“To exalt a lonely mind”: **Ciaran Carson, Michael Longley, Medbh McGuckian & Paul Muldoon** read from their poems.

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