# StAnza

Scotland's International Poetry Festival

# 2026 FESTIVAL SUMMARY

## 84 Events

- **38%** available digitally
- **40%** offered for free
- were performances / readings - **187** free tickets distributed to **9** organisations
- **21** workshops & drop-in sessions run with more than **500** attendees (online and in-person)
- Plus **3** exhibitions

**"This was a life changing festival. The events made me realize I've been avoiding poetry all these years due to fear of vulnerability, and STANZA found me at the perfect time. I'm ready to give poetry the chance it deserves."**

**- Audience**

## 100%

**of artists and audience members said they would likely return to StAnza in the future.**

## 16,473 Attendees

**25%** increase from **2025**. **12,659** came in-person and **3,814** joined online, with **34%** attending for the first time.

**100% of artists and 94% of audience members rated their festival experience as 4 or 5 stars.**

## 8 Languages

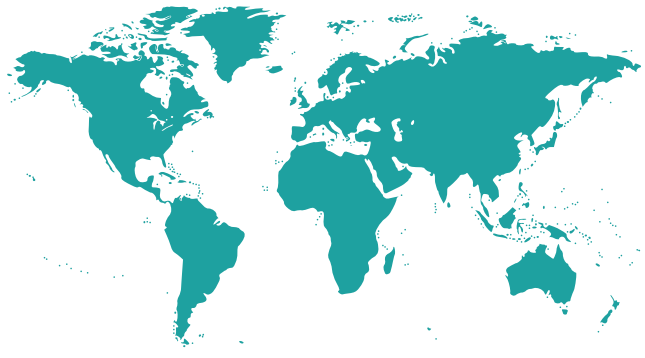
**Including Gaelic, Scots, Arabic, Spanish, Patois, German, and Norwegian.**

## 90 Artists

Artists were from 7 different countries.

**"I love how StAnza brings everyone together in St Andrews for a weekend full of poetry and inspiration. It feels like a reunion, and that sense of connection is such a big part of what makes it so special to me. It really does feel like being part of a supportive and welcoming community"**

**- Artist**



## 100%

**of artists agreed or strongly agreed that the festival was well-organised.**

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**31**
## Volunteers

**36** Partnerships

12 local, 13 wider Scotland,
6 national, 5 international.

**676**

days of direct employment for freelancers, a 14% increase from 2025.

"StAnza is both international and intimate, such a skilfully curated combination. It is a writerly gem of a festival: light-hearted, fun, and offers breadth and depth of poetic experience and resource. Thank you for StAnza continuing in the world!"

- Audience

"Great camaraderie, good energy, clear sense of community. Loved it. Felt like a family."
- Artist

## Our Thanks

## Partners & Supporters

centre for energy ethics

St Mungo's Mirrorball
The Glasgow network of poets and poetry lovers

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Bad Betty

Glasgow Zine Library

I AM LOUD

Tees Valley poetry london

Open Book

CALQ
Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec

north east fife community hub

Royal Society of Literature 18 20

BurningEyeBooks
Never Knowingly Mainstream

University of St Andrews | Wardlaw Museum

FIFE WRITES

University of St Andrews | Byre Theatre

GOETHE INSTITUT

NORLA
Norwegian Literature Abroad

off-page

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des arts du Canada

Fife Contemporary

MONIACK MHOR
SCOTLAND'S CREATIVE WRITING CENTRE
IONAD SGRÌOBHAIDH CHRUTHACHAIL NA H-ALBA

EDWIN MORGAN TRUST

## Funders

CREATIVE SCOTLAND
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Hawthornden Foundation

University of St Andrews

Fife Council