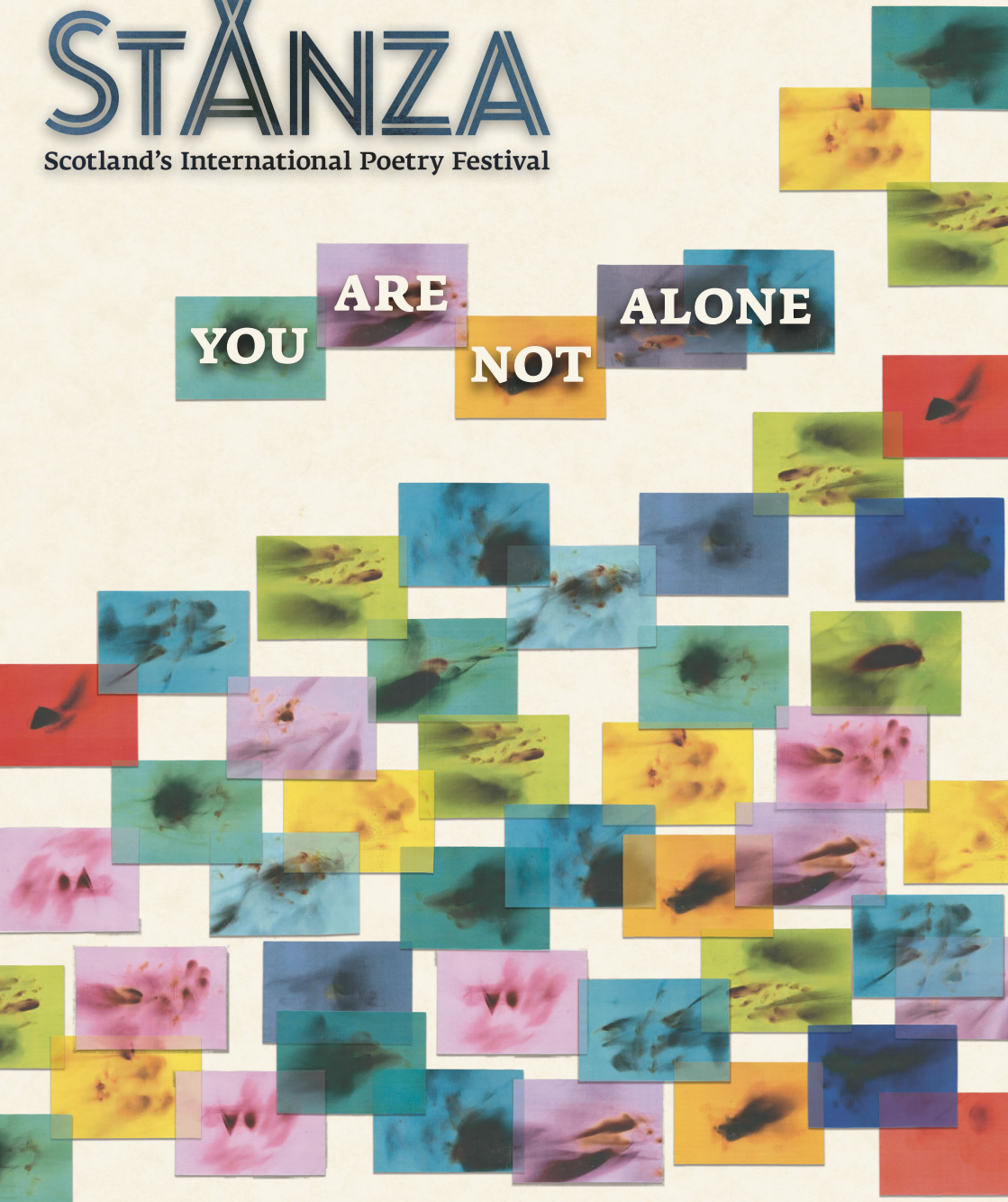
StANZA

Scotland's International Poetry Festival



13-15 March 2026 • St Andrews & Online

stanzapoetry.org



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Welcome to StAnza 2026

Last year, I heard Vicki Feaver speak about living with Parkinson's and the changes it has brought to her life and work. Introducing one of her unflinching new poems, she described a support group she attends and said, simply: "It reminds you that you are not alone."

That is also what good poetry does. Make no mistake, in this world there is illness. Grief. Injustice. Sadness. Anxiety. Sacred spaces and desecrated spaces.

Because of the omnipresence of these realities, we've built our 2026 festival around the belief that "You Are Not Alone".

There is comfort and courage in that phrase, and we want our festival to say it to everyone who joins us online or in person. Wherever you are, whatever you are going through, living with, celebrating or overcoming, you are not alone.

Poetry at its best exposes the lie of solitude, names it and makes what remains more bearable. It gives language to what we thought was secret, private, unsayable. Reading itself is often solitary, yet a festival transforms it into something communal: conversations spark, experiences echo and chime, the individual and peculiar is shared. It would be foolish to think we can fully understand another person's lived experience through a poem, but their poems can let us in and get us, at least, a little closer.

For 2026, we aim to celebrate that. To feel strength in numbers and hold our candles up together against the encroaching dark. To that end, we have gathered poets whose work is singular in its originality, communal in scope, open and honest in its telling. As you move through these three days, from readings to conversations to moments of quiet encounter, we hope you'll feel the connective tissue binding us together and will remember: You Are Not Alone.

We're glad to have you with us.
Welcome to StAnza 2026.

Ryan Van Winkle,
Artistic Director



Exhibitions

In our 2026 exhibitions you'll find work shaped through collaboration and conversation. You can immerse yourself in playful, imagined histories or view work responding to real events that have left a lasting mark on their communities. These are works that bear witness; works that create and demand connection.

A Cairngorm Love Affair by Alan Grieve & Eddie Summerton

Byre Theatre: Level 4 Foyer | 13-31 March

Presented with **North Sea Poets**, this part-real, part-imagined collection of mountain lore and ephemera entices you into a world all its own, complete with its own pop-up gift shop. Wander off the well-trodden path to grab a granite night.

Alan Grieve and **Eddie Summerton** exhibit individually, nationally and internationally and operate together as the art group A+E. Their collaborative work presents a humorous and irreverent exploration of memories and mythologies of landscape and objects across multiple platforms and events, ranging from galleries and museums to publications and public art.

A Cairngorm Love Affair is premiering at StAnza: Scotland's International Poetry Festival and will return later in the year to Kirkcaldy Galleries as part of Fife Contemporary's 20th anniversary celebrations.

Part of our visual art and craft programme, produced in partnership with Fife Contemporary.

Powódź/Flood by Natalia Bocian with a poetic response from Nazaret Ranea

Laidlaw Music Centre: Foyer & Online | 6-31 March

Natalia Bocian explores the global impacts of the climate emergency through personal and communal storytelling. Drawing on source documents, historical records and first-hand accounts, she transforms real events into paintings that reflect the disjointed experience of trauma and memory. Powódź revisits the catastrophic 1997 flood in Bocian's home city in Poland, tracing how communities remember, rebuild and remain connected through shared experience.

In June 2024, water levels in Poland again surpassed those of 1997, challenging the long-held belief that such floods were once-in-a-century events and underscoring the urgency at the heart of Bocian's work.

Poet **Nazaret Ranea** responds to Bocian's paintings with a specially commissioned audio piece installed alongside which draws on her own research into flood histories in Spain. Her poetry, often woven from survivors' testimonies, invites listeners into a shared act of remembrance and resilience.

Part of our visual art and craft programme, produced in partnership with Fife Contemporary.

white cubes – a pop-up exhibition by off-page vispo

Byre Theatre: Level 1 Foyer & Bar | 13-15 March

'white cubes' is a specially curated anthology/exhibition brought together by off-page, the team behind Glasgow's annual peer-led development programme for writers and artists with a curiosity about visual poetry and the poetic visual.

For StAnza 2026, **CD Boyland**, **Julie Laing** and **Leo Plumb** have worked with previous off-page participants to produce a pop-up version. Framed and contained by one of the world's most iconic pieces of display furniture, the collected works reimagine two traditional formats – the white cube gallery and the poetry anthology.

Come and see the work and be inspired by this playful introduction to visual poetic practice off the page.

Glasgow Zine Library

Byre Theatre: Level 1 Foyer & Bar | 11:00 14 March – 15:00 15 March

Discover Glasgow Zine Library's collection of poetry zines and have a go at making your own. Drop in anytime and get stuck in.



Event Key & Venue Information

The Byre Theatre
Online
Laidlaw Music Centre
Parliament Hall
Wardlaw Museum
St Salvator's Quad
North East Fife Community Hub

Reading / Performance
Livestreamed & In-Person*
Workshop
Music

CC Event will be captioned.

Event will be British Sign Language interpreted.

A hearing loop is available at the venue for this event.

*Where you see the Livestreamed symbol throughout this brochure, the listed event will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel. All livestreamed events will have auto-generated captions available.

The Byre Theatre
The Byre is our festival hub, where tickets can be bought and where most of StAnza's events and exhibitions are held. Located on Abbey Street, the Byre houses the Auditorium, the Studio, the Conference Room, the Level 2 Foyer, the Level 4 Foyer and the Level 1 Foyer & Bar.

Parliament Hall
Situated in St Mary's College, and an active student hub during the week, this venue does not open until 10 minutes before an event starts.

Wardlaw Museum
This museum houses a selection of the University of St Andrews' historic, artistic, and scientific collections across four galleries, and is found on The Scores.

North East Fife Community Hub
A community facility which hosts a wide range of events and activities to promote social inclusion, and is situated in the St Davids Centre, Albany Park.

Laidlaw Music Centre
Located on Queen's Terrace, the Laidlaw Music Centre will host one of our interactive exhibitions in its stunning contemporary foyer.

Friday 13th

ONLINE

Welcome to StAnza 2026
08:00 – 08:15 | YouTube | Free – drop-in
A warm welcome to You Are Not Alone from Artistic Director, **Ryan Van Winkle**.

CC

ONLINE THE BYRE

StAnza on Screen: a series of poetry films
10:00 – 17:30 | Byre: Conference Room | Free – drop-in
Drop into our screenings of a range of poetry films and vote for your favourite. The audience's choice will receive a £200 prize.

CC

ONLINE

Well-Versed: a creative writing workshop with Open Book
10:00 – 12:00 | Zoom | £5
Join performer, poet and facilitator, **Marjorie Lotfi** for an interactive and inspirational creative writing workshop.
Delivered in partnership with Open Book.

LAIDLAW

Artist Talk: Natalia Bocian & Nazaret Ranea
11:00 – 12:00 | Laidlaw Music Centre: Foyer | Free – drop-in
Delve deeper into our exhibition 'Powódź/Flood' with this rare opportunity to spend time with the artists and hear more about their processes, contexts and inspirations.
Part of our visual art and craft programme, produced in partnership with Fife Contemporary.

ONLINE

Writing Hour with Fife Writes
13:00 – 14:00 | Zoom | Free – booking required
Join your fellow writers online for a reflective lunchtime session where you can put pen to paper, hosted by Fife Writes.

NORTH EAST FIFE COMMUNITY HUB

Bring Your Own Poem: a poetry sharing event
13:00 – 15:00 | North East Fife Community Hub | Free – drop-in
Come along for this relaxed poem sharing event hosted by **Stewart Kerr** – feel free to bring along a favourite poem or two to share, and enjoy listening to others share theirs. Hot drinks available to purchase.

THE BYRE

Open Book Pamphlet Launch: Words from Around Scotland

17:00 – 18:00 | Byre: Auditorium | Free – booking required

Join Open Book writers as they share new work from across Scotland to launch their latest anthology. From biscuits to white lies to the quiet art of mending, this reading samples the themes that shaped their group sessions over the past year. Sit back, listen in, and see where their words take you.

ST SALVATOR'S QUAD

I Burn So You Don't Have To

18:00 - 18:45 | St Salvator's Quad | Free – drop in

Projection mapping meets poetry in this special performance by Canadian artivist **Joan Sullivan** and Northern Irish poet **Rachel McCrum**. A unique outdoor experience where we'll gather at dusk to hear the Sun share its voice.

Audience are welcome to gather from 18.00 with the event beginning at 18:15. As this is an outdoor event, please come dressed for the weather.

Supported by Centre for Energy Ethics, University of St Andrews and Canada Council for the Arts.

THE BYRE

You Are Not Alone: festival opening night

19:00 – 21:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

We open with our Colour Cabaret featuring **Andrés N. Ordorica**, **Isabelle Baafi**, **Jim Carruth**, **Marjorie Lotfi**, **Nick Makoha**, **Rachel McCrum**, and more, lighting up the stage with a rainbow of poetry. The evening continues with a bespoke entwined reading as **Anthony Vahni Capildeo** and **Niall Campbell** share poems in conversation with one another.

ONLINE THE BYRE

StAnza on Screen: a series of poetry films

19:00 – 23:00 | Byre: Studio | Free – drop-in

Drop into our screenings of a range of poetry films and vote for your favourite. The audience's choice will receive a £200 prize.

THE BYRE

SpeakEasy at StAnza with RJ Hunter and House Band

21:30 – 23:00 | Byre: Level 1 Foyer & Bar | Free – drop in

A high-energy riff on the traditional open-mic night! Hosted by **RJ Hunter** with the incomparable SpeakEasy house band, this late-night session invites you to bring a poem, call out a musical cue, and perform your work with live accompaniment. Sign-up with RJ on the night.

Saturday 14th

ONLINE

Marjorie's Table

08:30 – 09:00 | Zoom | Free – booking required

Join Forward Prize winner **Marjorie Lotfi** for a morning chat about all things poetry.

THE BYRE

Waves as Blue as Air: a coastal poetry walk

09:30 – 11:00 | Byre: Abbey St entrance | £20/£15/£10/£5

A coastal walk led by **Ken Cockburn**, with readings of poems about St Andrews and the North Sea, highlighting some of the natural and human-made features of these coasts. Meet at the Abbey Street entrance to The Byre Theatre.

THE BYRE

Masterclass with Anthony Joseph: The Personal as a Universal

10:00 – 11.00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

Explore how the raw substance of our lives can be turned into art that resonates beyond the self. Through hands-on exercises, award-winning poet, novelist, musician and academic **Anthony Joseph** will help you unlock how the deeply personal can speak to the universal.

THE BYRE

Wake up, Poetry with Charles Lang & Isabelle Baafi

10:00 – 11:00 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

Begin your day in good company as **Charles Lang** and **Isabelle Baafi** share work from their acclaimed debut collections. Conversation and readings to give you a clear-eyed start to your StAnza Saturday.

THE BYRE

Zine Clinic with Glasgow Zine Library

11:00 – 14:00 | Byre: Level 1 Foyer & Bar | Free – drop in

Want to make your own poetry zine? Got an idea but don't know where to start? Stuck between your awl and a bone folder? Come with your zine questions and confusions and the GZL team will get you on track.

THE BYRE

Our Many-Voiced Country

11:30 – 12:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

Scotland's Makar **Peter Mackay** brings together poets who write and translate across the country's many languages, sharing work shaped through exchange. Featuring **Agata Maslowska, Iyad Hayatleh, Jeda Pearl, Juana Adcock, Meg Bateman** and **Robert Crawford**.

Supported by the Gaelic Books Council and the Scottish Government.

THE BYRE

Grab the Mic: a performance poetry workshop with the Loud Poets

11:30 – 12:30 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

Are you ready to take the mic? Join poets from Scotland's only spoken-word production company, I Am Loud, for a session designed to sharpen your delivery, build confidence and hone your craft for the stage.



THE BYRE

Masterclass with Carl Phillips: Patterns Make Meaning

13:00 – 14:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

Patterns in poetry remind us that no line, word or moment stands alone. In this workshop with Pulitzer Prize–winning poet **Carl Phillips**, you'll look closely at a handful of short poems to explore how pattern gives structure and generates meaning. You'll experiment with patterning as a tool for shaping new poems and revisiting older drafts.

Supported by Poetry London.



THE BYRE

Golden Time (and Other Behavioural Management Strategies)

13:00 – 14:00 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

In this club-meets-classroom performance blending spoken word and theatre, **Kate Ireland** takes you along as she revisits a memorable week as a teaching assistant. Following a critically acclaimed Fringe run (★★★★ The Guardian), this is "properly golden hours, conjured by a performer who shines."



ONLINE THE BYRE

Writing Hour with Fife Writes

13:00 – 14:00 | Byre: Conference Room & Zoom | Free – booking required

Join your fellow writers online and in-person for a reflective lunchtime session where you can put pen to paper, hosted by Fife Writes.



THE BYRE

Hold the Phone: poems for your ears only

14:00 – 18:00 | Byre: Level 2 Foyer | £5 – drop in and pay on the door

An intimate one-to-one performance, for your ears only. Pour a cup of tea, get cosy, and pick up the phone to hear **Chen Chen's** wit and warmth (14.00 – 16.00) or **Mary Ruefle's** singular magic (16.00 – 18.00) in this private long-distance encounter.



THE BYRE

off-page vispo: pop-up drop-in

14:00 – 15:30 | Byre: Level 1 Foyer & Bar | Free – drop-in

Curious about the white cubes pop-up exhibition? Join the team behind off-page, Glasgow's annual anthology/exhibition of visual poetry and the poetic visual, to hear more about the pieces and have a go at putting together one of your own.



THE BYRE

Bards & Blether: Anthony Joseph & Nick Makoha

14:30 – 15:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

A rare chance to hear two award-winning poets in relaxed conversation, sharing readings alongside reflections on craft, influence, and their multifaceted artistic careers.



ONLINE

In the Company of Poetry with Polly Atkin

14:30 – 16:00 | Zoom | £5

Through shared reading and reflection, **Polly Atkin** will explore how poetry can offer company, spark self-discovery and help build communities of care. This workshop looks at what it means to collaborate across space and time — especially when we are physically isolated.



THE BYRE

Bad Betty Showcase

15:45 – 16:45 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

Bad Betty is an award-winning publisher and expert at delivering thrilling live literature experiences. Here we present three poets from their exquisite list: **Ashley Hickson-Lovence**, **Ciara Maguire**, and **Keith Jarrett**.



WARDLAW

Unheard Histories: poems in times of turmoil

15:45 – 16:45 | Wardlaw Museum | £20/£15/£10/£5

Andrés N. Ordorica, Jim Carruth and **Marjorie Lotfi** premiere new poems sparked by the Wardlaw Museum's War, Destruction and Reform exhibition. Plague, unrest, upheaval — the past speaks to the present as these poets explore how lives under pressure connect across centuries.

Supported by the University of St Andrews Collections and Museums.



THE BYRE

Loud Poets Slam

16:45 – 18:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

The regional heat for the east of Scotland is here! The winner and runner up will compete in the Grand Slam at Edinburgh International Book Festival 2026 for a top prize of £3,000.



THE BYRE

Mariscat Press presents Kate Hendry, Martin Malone & Vicki Feaver

17:15 – 18:15 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

Marking 44 years of Mariscat Press, this event brings three celebrated Mariscat poets together on one stage. **Kate Hendry**, **Martin Malone** and **Vicki Feaver** and read poems that meet illness, ageing and memory with humour, insight and heart. With introductions by **Diana Hendry** and **Hamish Whyte**.



ST SALVATOR'S QUAD

I Burn So You Don't Have To

18:00 - 18:45 | St Salvator's Quad | Free – drop in

Projection mapping meets poetry in this special performance by Canadian artivist **Joan Sullivan** and Northern Irish poet **Rachel McCrum**. A unique outdoor experience where we'll gather at dusk to hear the Sun share its voice.

Audience are welcome to gather from 18.00 with the event beginning at 18:15. As this is an outdoor event, please come dressed for the weather.

Supported by Centre for Energy Ethics, University of St Andrews and Canada Council for the Arts.

ONLINE THE BYRE

StAnza on Screen: a series of poetry films

18:30 – 23:00 | Byre: Studio | Free – drop in

Drop into our screenings of a range of poetry films and vote for your favourite. The audience's choice will receive a £200 prize.







Clockwise from top left: Caitlin O'Ryan, Carl Phillips and Georgie Jones.
See event details opposite.

Saturday Night at StAnza

THE BYRE



Poetry Centre Stage: Carl Phillips & Pascale Petit

19:00 – 20:45 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

Performances from Pulitzer Prize winner **Carl Phillips**, "one of America's most original and influential lyric poets," and Laurel Prize winner **Pascale Petit**, known for her dazzling, creature-filled explorations of the natural world.

Supported by Poetry London.

THE BYRE



Saturday Night StAnzas with Caitlin O'Ryan, Georgie Jones & Malaika Kegode

21:30 – 22:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

Saturday night brings a brouhaha from Burning Eye Books. Featuring viral sensation **Caitlin O'Ryan**, humour, heart and the messiness of modern life with **Georgie Jones**, and **Malaika Kegode**, an award-winning artist of radical empathy. Hosted by **Clive Birnie**.

Delivered in partnership with Burning Eye Books.

THE BYRE



Open Mic with Jim Carruth

21:30 – 23:00 | Byre: Level 1 Foyer & Bar | Free – drop in

Hosted by **Jim Carruth**, enjoy an array of poets and poetic styles at this warm and welcoming open mic. Sign up at the Festival Desk or with Jim on the night.

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Sunday 15 March | 11:00-15:00

Parliament Hall, 66 South Street

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- Meet the publishers
- Free tea and coffee



STANZA
Scotland's International Poetry Festival

Sunday 15th

ONLINE

Marjorie's Table

08:30 – 09:00 | Zoom | Free – booking required

Join Forward Prize winner **Marjorie Lotfi** for a morning chat about all things poetry.

THE BYRE

Masterclass with Marie Howe: No, Not, Nothing, Never: Correction, Contradiction, Negative Capability and The Bliss of Uncertainty

10:00 – 11:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

In this masterclass, Pulitzer Prize winner **Marie Howe** explores poems that appear to think on the page. You'll study works where the poet contradicts themselves, corrects themselves, admits what they do not know, stops, then starts again before experimenting with contradiction in your own poems.

THE BYRE

Something Borrowed Live Podcast with Michael Mullen

10:00 – 11:00 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

Sit in with Something Borrowed, a live interview/performance podcast where poets swap poems old, new, borrowed and blue, all while revealing the stories behind their work. Hosted by **Harry Baker** with guest **Michael Mullen**, recently shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection.

PARL. HALL

Poetry Market

11:00 – 15:00 | Parliament Hall | Free – drop-in

StAnza's poetry market returns. Drop in to Parliament Hall to visit our exhibiting poetry presses, magazines and artists.

ONLINE

A Home in Space: exploring Edwin Morgan's concrete poetry

11:00 – 12:00 | Zoom | £5

To mark the release of Home in Space, **Greg Thomas** and **Julie Johnstone** guide you through Edwin Morgan's concrete, visual and sound poetry. Drawing on Morgan's inventive spirit, you'll try new approaches to making your own work.

Supported by Edwin Morgan Trust.

THE BYRE

Zine Clinic with Glasgow Zine Library

11:00 – 14:00 | Byre: Level 1 Foyer & Bar | Free – drop in

Want to make your own poetry zine? Got an idea but don't know where to start? Stuck between your awl and a bone folder? Come with your zine questions and confusions and the GZL team will get you on track.

THE BYRE

Hello! A phone box poetry workshop

11:15 – 12:30 | Byre: Abbey St entrance | £20/£15/£10/£5

Hosted by poet **Barbara Usher** and artist **Liz Crichton** of Revelation Arts, this site-specific collaborative workshop will culminate in a joint poem written together on the windows of the old, iconic, red telephone box of North Street. Meet at the Abbey Street entrance to The Byre Theatre.

THE BYRE

The Stepmother

11:30 – 12:45 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

In the aftermath of a crisis within her blended family, a stepmother weighs the choices she's made and those she has left. In this unflinching suite of narrative poems, **Amélie Prévost** and **Rachel McCrum** reframe the stepmother archetype in a thoughtful spoken-word performance.

Supported by Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

THE BYRE

Messing with words: collaborations, responses, translations & betrayals

11:30 – 12:30 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

Makar **Peter Mackay** invites you to explore collaboration, translation, response and mischief on the page. This hands-on session looks at how poets create with (or against) one another to make language strange and shared. Please bring two meaningful words to work with. Workshop will be in English but Gaelic speakers and other languages are all welcome.

Supported by the Gaelic Books Council.

THE BYRE

Locating the Trace: the StAnza & Poetry Association of Scotland John Masefield Lecture

13:00 – 14:00 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

Yousif M. Qasmiyeh and **Elena Fiddian-Qasmiyeh** share and reflect on poetry made in displacement, drawing on poems and poetic fragments from residents of refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan.

Supported by Poetry Association of Scotland.

ONLINE

THE BYRE

Writing Hour with Fife Writes

13:00 – 14:00 | Byre: Conference Room & Zoom | Free – booking required

Join your fellow writers online for a reflective lunchtime session where you can put pen to paper, hosted by Fife Writes.

THE BYRE

Hold the Phone: poems for your ears only

14:00 – 18:00 | Byre: Level 2 Foyer | £5

An intimate one-to-one performance, for your ears only. Pour a cup of tea, get cosy, and pick up the phone to hear **Bob Hicok's** tender wit (14:00 – 16:00) or **Stephanie Burt's** bright, generous lyricism (16:00 – 18:00) in this special long-distance encounter.

THE BYRE

Border Crossings with Durs Grünbein and Karen Leeder

14:30 – 15:30 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

Witty, wry and elegant, the poetry of **Durs Grünbein** has made him one of Germany's most celebrated contemporary voices and earned him and his translator, **Karen Leeder**, the prestigious Griffin Prize. Together they take the stage to share poems and discuss the collaborative, intimate work of translation.

Supported by Goethe-Institut Glasgow.

THE BYRE

off-page: a visual poetry workshop

14:30 – 15:30 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

Want to expand your practice into physical spaces with new, creative ideas? Join the team behind off-page, Glasgow's annual anthology/ exhibition of visual poetry and the poetic visual, for a hands-on collaborative workshop.

THE BYRE

Versus Versus with Chisom Okafor, David Wheatley, Karthika Naïr and Rachael Boast

16:00 – 17:00 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

A delve into the new Bloodaxe Books anthology, Versus Versus: 100 Poems by Deaf, Disabled & Neurodivergent Poets. Join special guests, **Chisom Okafor**, **David Wheatley** and **Karthika Naïr**, reading poems and discussing this landmark anthology with editor **Rachael Boast**.

Supported by the Royal Society of Literature through their 2022 Literature Matters Award.

THE BYRE

Make It Now: zine workshop with Glasgow Zine Library and Ross McFarlane

16:00 – 17:00 | Byre: Conference Room | £20/£15/£10/£5

Excited to get your poems out into the world? Want to make your own poetry zine? Got an idea but don't know where to start? Join the GZL team and poet **Ross McFarlane** for a practical guide to zine-making, DIY distribution, and hands-on activities (with supplies provided!) to help you get it made now!

THE BYRE

Noriaki - Endre Ruset & Harry Man

17:30 – 18:15 | Byre: Studio | £20/£15/£10/£5

Harry Man opens with a short reading from his own work before joining **Endre Ruset** for a warm, multi-media reading of Noriaki. In this cosy, collaborative performance, haiku-like snapshots pay tribute to ski-jump legend Noriaki Kasai.

Supported by University of Oxford, NORLA: Norwegian Literature Abroad, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the Tees Valley Combined Authority.

Sunday Night at StAnza

THE BYRE



Poetry Centre Stage: Marie Howe & Sarah Howe

18.30 – 20:15 | Byre: Auditorium | £20/£15/£10/£5

Pulitzer Prize winner **Marie Howe** and T. S. Eliot Prize winner **Sarah Howe** read from bodies of work which have been praised for fierce clarity and emotional power. A rare chance to hear two remarkable voices together.

This event is dedicated to the memory of StAnza founder, Brian Johnstone.

THE BYRE



Inklight presents You Are Not Alone with Harry Baker

20:45 – 22:00 | Byre: Level 1 Foyer & Bar | Free – drop in

Closing out the 2026 festival, our friends at Inklight reflect on this year's theme with a curated series of readings, featuring former World Poetry Slam Champion **Harry Baker**.

ONLINE THE BYRE

StAnza on Screen: a series of poetry films

18:30 – 22:00 | Byre: Studio | Free – drop in

Drop into our screenings of a range of poetry films and vote for your favourite. The audience's choice will receive a £200 prize.

Festival Information

Festival Desk: Located in the Level 2 Foyer, the festival desk provides answers to all your festival questions, gives directions to venues and can assist with planning your travels in and around St Andrews.

Bookshop & Signings: Our partners, Lighthouse Bookshop, will be on site in the Level 2 Foyer all weekend offering the latest collections from all our festival artists. They'll also be overseeing signings throughout each day, so be sure to stop by and top up your poetry library with some signed editions!

Accessibility: The Byre Theatre, Parliament Hall, North East Fife Community Hub and Laidlaw Music Centre all offer level access throughout, as well as accessible toilets and space for wheelchair users in all event spaces, with unrestricted views. Wardlaw Museum is fully wheelchair accessible and has a lift. St Salvator's Quad is also wheelchair accessible.

The Byre Theatre offers a hearing loop – please let one of the Front of House volunteers know upon arrival if you would like to make use of this facility.

Our digital events will have closed or auto-generated captions and our headline evening events will be BSL interpreted.

For detailed access information, including downloadable AccessAble guides for venues, please visit stanzapoetry.org/festival/the-venues or get in touch by emailing stanza@stanzapoetry.org.

Safer Spaces: StAnza is a festival that aims to create a respectful, welcoming and kind environment where all people should feel safe to explore poetry as themselves. Our Safer Spaces principles apply throughout our festival venues. You can read our full policy at stanzapoetry.org/policies.







Booking Information

Tickets go on general sale on **Wednesday 21 January 2026**. You can secure priority booking by becoming a Supporter of StAnza — find out more at stanzapoetry.org/our-supporters/

You can view the full programme at www.stanzapoetry.org, where you will also find the link to book online via the Byre Theatre website. You can also purchase tickets in person at the Byre Theatre or by calling the Box Office: 01334 475000.

StAnza offers a Pay What You Can model, with tickets available at £20, £15, £10 or £5. The average true ticket cost is £33.81. Choosing a higher tier helps to sustain the festival and pays it forward for those who benefit from a lower-priced ticket, keeping StAnza accessible for everyone.

All ticketed digital events cost £5. A Digital Festival Pass is also available for £30 for unlimited access to all livestreamed events (please note: the digital pass does not include online workshops).

We want everyone to feel welcome at StAnza, no matter their circumstances. For each major event, a small number of free tickets will be made available for those facing financial hardship to claim, no questions asked. For more information about this initiative and how to claim, please email stanza@stanzapoetry.org or call the Byre Theatre box office on the number above.

Venue Locations



1. **Byre Theatre**
   Festival Hub
2. **Parliament Hall**
   3 min. walk from The Byre
3. **North East Fife Community Hub**
   12 min. walk from The Byre
4. **Laidlaw Music Centre**
   5 min. walk from The Byre
5. **Wardlaw Museum**
   8 min. walk from The Byre
6. **St Salvator's Quad**
   7 min. walk from The Byre

A huge thank you to all our StAnza Community

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all of those who have given their support to make this year's festival possible. StAnza couldn't exist without the generosity, support and commitment of our partners, sponsors, staff, volunteers, Supporters and audiences.

We would like to extend particular gratitude to our Trustees:
Tim Cresswell (Chair)
Catherine Wilson Garry
Christina Neuwirth
Erin McElhinney
Oli Hazzard
Rachel Wallace
Zosia Kuczyńska

Festival Credits

You Are Not Alone is brought to you by:
Ryan Van Winkle – Artistic Director
Suzie Kirk Dumitru – Executive Producer
Anna Marshall and Jan Rutherford – Campaign Managers
Natalie Jayne Clark – Assistant Producer
James Boyer Smith – Technical Manager
Brochure Cover Image: *Asemic Shadows* by Helen Ross

Keep in Touch

Scan the QR code to join our mailing list and get all our latest news delivered straight to your inbox.

Email: stanza@stanzapoetry.org
Website: www.stanzapoetry.org
Follow StAnza: @stanzapoetry

StAnza 2026 Weekend Planner

	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	NOTES
08:00				
09:00				
10:00				
11:00				
12:00				
13:00				
14:00				
15:00				
16:00				
17:00				
18:00				
19:00				

University of St Andrews

Byre Theatre

A culturally vibrant home for all the people who work, study or live in St Andrews and beyond.

Abbey Street
St Andrews
KY16 9LA
01334 475 000

Find what's on at byretheatre.com

On social media

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StAnza Supporters

A special thank you to everyone who has donated to StAnza this year. Our Friends, Champions and Benefactors play a vital role in helping us programme a festival that brings people together and keeps poetry at the heart of Scotland's cultural life. Your backing gives us the confidence and stability we need to do this work.

If you'd like to help secure StAnza's future, you can become a regular Supporter and enjoy a range of exclusive benefits. Visit stanzapoetry.org/our-supporters or speak to our team at the Festival Desk. One-off donations can be made by scanning the QR code or visiting stanzapoetry.org/donate.

Funders

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