



**THE GRIFFIN TRUST
For Excellence In Poetry**

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**THE GRIFFIN TRUST FOR EXCELLENCE IN POETRY
ANNOUNCES THE JUDGES FOR THE 2003 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE**

EDINBURGH, Scotland, August 24, 2002 – Distinguished poets Michael Longley (U.K.), Sharon Olds (U.S.A.) and Sharon Thesen (Canada), will judge entries submitted from publishers around the world for 2003 Griffin Poetry Prize. Scott Griffin, Chairman, made the announcement at a special Griffin Poetry Prize Event held at the Edinburgh International Book Festival where three previous Griffin Poetry Prize winners – Anne Carson, Christian Bök and Alice Notley – will read their poetry.

The judges are selected annually by the trustees: Margaret Atwood, Robert Hass, Michael Ondaatje, Robin Robertson and David Young. Longley, Olds and Thesen will be judging books of poetry published in the 2002 calendar year. The shortlist will be announced on UNESCO World Poetry Day, March 21, 2003 and The Griffin Poetry Prize, worth C\$80,000, divided between the International and Canadian winners, will be presented at the May 29, 2003 Awards Ceremony. Readings by the shortlisted poets will take place on May 28, 2003.

The Griffin Trust was created to serve and encourage excellence in poetry written in English anywhere in the world. Eligible collections of poetry, which includes translations, must be submitted by publishers in the calendar year of their publication.

Michael Longley was born in Belfast in 1939 and educated at the Royal Belfast Academical Institution and Trinity College, Dublin, where he read Classics. In 1991 he retired from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, where he initiated the programmes for literature, the traditional arts and arts-in-education. His collections include *Gorse Fires* (1991), which won the Whitbread Prize for Poetry, *The Ghost Orchid* (1995) which was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, and *The Weather in Japan* (2000), which won the T.S. Eliot Prize, the Hawthornden Prize and the *Irish Times* Literature Prize for Poetry. His *Selected Poems* was published in 1998, and in 2001 he was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and member of Aosdána. He and his wife, the critic Edna Longley, live and work in Belfast.

Sharon Olds was born in 1942 in San Francisco, and educated at Stanford University and Columbia University. Her first book *Satan Says* (1980), received the inaugural San Francisco Poetry Center Award. Her second, *The Dead and the Living*, was both the Lamont Poetry Selection for 1983 and winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award. *The Father* (1992) was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. A new collection, the *Unswapt Room*, will be published later this year. She teaches poetry workshops in the Graduate Creative Writing Program at New York University and in the N.Y.U. workshop program at Goldwater Hospital on Roosevelt Island in New York. From 1998 to 2000 she was the State Poet of New York. She lives in New York City.

Sharon Thesen is a Vancouver poet and editor, author of eight books of poetry (including two selected poems). Her latest book of poems, *A Pair of Scissors* (2000), won the Pat Lowther Memorial Award. *Confabulations* (1984) and *The Beginning of the Long Dash* (1987) were shortlisted for Governor-General's Awards. She has edited an award-winning edition of Phyllis Webb's poetry, two editions of *The New Long Poem Anthology*, and, with Ralph Maud, Charles Olson and Frances Boldereff: *A Modern Correspondence* (Wesleyan 1999). Sharon teaches English at Capilano College in North Vancouver, where she is also editor of *The Capilano Review*.

Please visit our website at www.griffinpoetryprize.com

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