

2019 Ballyroan Library World Poetry Day Competition

We had over 150 entries this year, and since the standard was so high, we have a number of highly commended entries which we have decided to also publish. As well as these entries we have 3rd, 2nd and an overall winner.

Congratulations to all those shortlisted, and the winners!

2nd Place Winner:

***A Jazz Band on the Ponte Romana* by Siobhan Flynn**

Comment from the judge:

Siobhan's descriptive poem begins as an account of a band playing, before widening into something deeper. A discussion of how music feeds us, of how it seeps into our daily life and every pore. How sound can reverberate off architecture, and us, and unite both.

A jazz band on the Ponte Romana

The guitar licks around the melody
as money jingles into the plush lining
of the worn leather saxophone case.

Paper flutters in with the coins, and
they take turns to solo over the vamp
of the twirling, white-painted double bass.

The accordion chords tumble
into the shadow of the arches,
confusing the meeting waters.

The clarinetist stands up,
takes the centre, raises his horn
so that the notes fly skyward,

are caught by passing birds,
carried out to sea, and dropped
to feed the whales.

Mellow saxophone tones
climb the walls of Santa Maria do Castelo,
all the way up to the bell tower,

and lodge there under the bell,
escaping later to astound
us with an unexpected toll,

resonating down the hill,
into the music, into the blue –
blue sea, blue river, blue sky.

Siobhán Flynn's poems have been published in *Wild Atlantic Words*, *Visual Verse*, *The Pickled Body*, *New Irish Writing* and others. She was selected for the Poetry Introductions at the Cork International Poetry Festival this year. She lives in Churchtown with her family, her dog, and the hope of publishing a collection.