



Swedenborg Birthday Meeting

book launch and poetry readings

**FREE
ADMISSION**



Image credits: top left, Alex Waterhouse; second in from top left, Emily Andersen; third in from top left, Hayley Madden; bottom left, Niall McDiarmid; bottom right, Olga Lipska.

SATURDAY 26 JANUARY 2019 | 2.00 - 8.00 PM

We are delighted to announce the launch of the latest book in the Swedenborg Archive series: *In Celebration of Tomas Tranströmer!* On the occasion of the launch, Swedenborg House will also host a broad range of international poets reading from their work including:

**Homero Aridjis | Ruth Fainlight | Sarah Howe |
Helder Macedo | Adam O'Riordan | Robin Robertson |
Declan Ryan | Per Wästberg | Hannah Sullivan |
Hugo Williams**

INVITED POETS

HOMERO ARIDJIS is the author of over 40 works, he has twice been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and has twice served as President of PEN International, and is a former Mexican ambassador to UNESCO. Since then he has become one of Latin America's leading environmental activists.

RUTH FAINLIGHT is an award-winning poet and translator. Fainlight has lived in England since the age of 15, achieving success in fiction, translation and opera libretti as well as poetry. She became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2008.

SARAH HOWE is a Hong Kong-born British poet, academic and editor. Her first collection of poems is *Loop of Jade* (Chatto & Windus, 2015).

HELDER MALTA MACEDO is a renowned poet, essayist and novelist. He was born on 30 November 1935 in South Africa and spent his childhood in Mozambique before moving to Lisbon aged 12 and eventually studying at the School of Law there.

ADAM O'RIORDAN is Academic Director of the Writing School at Manchester Metropolitan University. In 2008 O'Riordan became the youngest Poet-in-Residence at The Wordsworth Trust, the Centre for British Romanticism. His first collection *In the Flesh* (Chatto and Windus) won a Somerset Maugham Award in 2011.

**BOOKING LINK:
[www.eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)**

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- TIME: 2.00pm - 8.00pm
 - DATE: 26 January 2019
 - VENUE:
Swedenborg House
20/21 Bloomsbury Way
London, WC1A 2TH
tel: 0207 405 7986
www.swedenborg.org.uk
 - NEAREST TUBE
Holborn/
Tottenham Court Road
 - ADMISSION:
FREE (but please book in advance via our eventbrite page: <https://swedenborgsociety.eventbrite.co.uk>)
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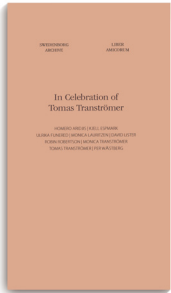
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ROBIN ROBERTSON is the author of several collections of poetry. His debut collection, *A Painted Field* (1997), won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection, the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival Prize, and the Saltire Scottish First Book of the Year Award, and was one of the Sunday Times Books of the Year.

DECLAN RYAN was born in County Mayo, Ireland. His debut pamphlet was published in the *Faber New Poets* series in 2014. He is poetry editor at *Ambit* and teaches at King's College London.

HANNAH SULLIVAN is an Associate Professor of English at New College, Oxford. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard in 2008 and taught in California for four years. Her study of modernist writing, *The Work of Revision*, was published in 2013 and awarded the Rose Mary Crawshay Prize by the British Academy.

PER WÄSTBERG is Chairman of the Nobel Committee for Literature. He founded the Swedish Section of Amnesty International in 1963 and was deeply involved in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. From 1976 to 1982 he was the editor of Sweden's largest daily newspaper, *Dagens Nyheter*.

HUGO WILLIAMS is the author of more than a dozen collections of poetry, including *West End Final* (2009), *Collected Poems* (2002), *Billy's Rain* (1999). His additional honors include the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, and the Cholmondeley Award.

ABOUT THE BOOK

In Celebration of Tomas Tranströmer

Tomas Tranströmer (1931-2015) was one of Sweden's most universally respected literary exports, his poetry being translated into over 60 different languages and drawing the admiration of international contemporaries (many of whom would become close friends and translators of his work), such as Czesław Miłosz, Joseph Brodsky and Robert Bly. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature to great acclaim in 2011.

This book celebrates Tranströmer's life and work, featuring a carefully considered selection of his poetry, in translations by the award-winning Scottish poet **Robin Robertson**, and an array of revealing and insightful tributes, appreciations and reminiscences from some of Tomas's closest literary friends and colleagues, including the Swedish writer and literary historian, **Kjell Espmark**; the journalist and Chair of the Nobel Committee, **Per Wästberg**; the literary critic and producer **Monica Lauritzen**; and the Mexican poet, environmental campaigner and former president of PEN International **Homero Aridjis**.

Tranströmer's writing possessed a deceptive simplicity that often saw him considered a 'poet's poet', simultaneously mineral and metaphysical in its concerns, **Seamus Heaney** described it as permitting us 'to be happily certain of our own uncertainties'. It was somehow fitting that, in conjunction with the Swedish Embassy, a commemoration of Tomas should take place at Swedenborg House, an event out of which this book was born. That day's proceedings were closed by Tomas's widow, **Monica**, whose warm and moving words also close this volume, and should delight anyone with an interest in Tranströmer's poetry.

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