



What You Will Hear Is True

51st Poetry International Festival Postponed

With a heavy heart Poetry International has decided to postpone the Poetry International Festival 2020, which was to take place June 25-28 at the de Doelen halls in Rotterdam. We were looking forward to it very much. Under the theme *What You Will Hear Is True*, we were well underway to creating a truly unforgettable 51st festival, much as we did during our successful anniversary edition in 2019, together with poets, translators, musicians, volunteers, partners, and of course the audience. Because of the current COVID-19 crisis, and the necessary measures limiting movement that have been taken in the Netherlands and abroad, it has proven impossible to prepare a festival worthy of its participants by the end of June.

We are primarily concerned with the health of the poets, translators, partners, visitors, and employees of the festival, and the uncertain circumstances in which they now find themselves. We will try to support them to the best of our ability.

By choosing to postpone, Poetry International nonetheless opts to continue the festival in the long term. We are currently exploring the possibility of presenting poets, poetry and events online or in person at a later point in time. This will be carried out in collaboration with Dutch and international partners existing and new.

In the meantime we are available to loyal and new audiences on social media and our websites, so we can continue inspiring and offering comfort in these times, for example through our [Archive Tours](#) on [Poetry International Archives](#). Soon we will also be presenting our short term plans for various Book Clubs. And this month, the judges of the C. Buddingh' prize will announce a shortlist containing the four best debut collections to have appeared in the past year in the Netherlands and Flanders.

We will keep sharing new information on our [websites and social media](#). We feel encouraged by the solidarity and creativity that we have seen blossoming all around us. We also wholeheartedly thank our sponsors for their support as we take the difficult decision of postponing our festival.



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