

MUNSTER LITERATURE CENTRE

*presents*

SPRING 2010

# WRITING WORKSHOPS

POETRY WORKSHOP WITH JAMES HARPUR

THE MUNSTER LITERATURE CENTRE  
TIGH LITRÍOCHTA  
FRANK O'CONNOR HOUSE  
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CORK  
(021) 431 2955  
WWW.MUNSTERLIT.IE  
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## POETRY WORKSHOP

Banish those wintry thoughts and put an extra spring in your mental step with a series of six poetry workshops that will get your creative sap flowing. Each of the sessions will be loosely divided into two parts: the first will involve a general discussion about a specific poetic theme. The second part will concentrate on participants' work, which will be appraised by James and the other members of the group.

The course is suitable for all devotees of poetry—for those who just enjoy reading poetry or those who are engaged in writing it, whether published poets or beginners.

### On Good Form

The theme for this series of workshops is form—the shape or mould into which poets pour their poetic content. Most poets at some point on their journeys have a go at writing a haiku or perhaps a sonnet, or maybe couplets, a villanelle or a ballad. But how many writers really consider what the best form is for their poems? What is it about a haiku that makes it a haiku—the syllable count or nature as a subject matter or neither or both? Why choose to write a sonnet, and is it simply a case of stopping after 14 lines? When would you write a ballad—is it suitable for 'serious' narratives?

Taking examples from classic and contemporary writers, we shall run the rule over form, exploring the strengths and weaknesses, the purpose and pitfalls of the different types of verse. There will be plenty of chance for lively discussion and mutual exploration of ideas and also the chance to encounter some of the best poems of the poetry canon.

### PARTICIPATION DETAILS

- Intimate class size (ten maximum) individual attention guaranteed from a much-published prize-winning author.
- Held weekly on Wednesdays, 7-9 pm, from 24th March.
- Fee: €120 (€100 Concession) for six workshops.

To Book: please contact The Munster Literature Centre on (021) 431 2955 or email [administrator@munsterlit.ie](mailto:administrator@munsterlit.ie). Further details are also available on [www.munsterlit.ie](http://www.munsterlit.ie). Due to the limited capacity, we suggest that you book your place as soon as possible.

## ABOUT JAMES HARPUR



James Harpur has had four poetry collections published by Anvil Press: *A Vision of Comets* (1993), *The Monk's Dream* (1996), *Oracle Bones* (2001) and *The Dark Age* (2007), which was winner of the 2009 Michael Hartnett Award. Anvil have also published his *Fortune's Prisoner*, a translation of the poems of Boethius. He has written a number of non-fiction works, including *Love Burning in the Soul* (Shambhala, 2005), an introduction to the Christian mystics.

James has won a number of prizes for his poetry, including the 1995 British National Poetry Competition, and has received various awards and bursaries, from institutions such as Cork Arts, the Arts Council, the Eric Gregory Trust, the Society of Authors, and the Hawthornden Foundation. His poems have been broadcast on national and local radio in Ireland and the UK and have appeared in many anthologies.

He is currently poetry editor of the *Temenos Academy Review* and of *Southword*, one of Ireland's leading literary journals.

James has considerable experience as a creative writing tutor, both with groups and individuals, and is noted for his friendly and insightful guidance. He has led residential poetry workshops at the Arvon Foundation, the UK's premier creative writing organization, and has been a Visiting Writer at the Universities of Lancaster and the West of England on their MA courses in creative writing. He has led workshops in various parts of Ireland, including at the Strokestown and Baffle poetry festivals, and at Bantry, Clonakilty, Skibbereen and Dunmanway libraries. In addition, he has held poetry residencies at Exeter Cathedral in the UK, as part of the national Year of the Artist programme, and at the Munster Literature Centre in Cork. He is currently a facilitator at the weekly MLC workshop in Cork.