

The 16th Elmbridge Literary Competition 2021

MUSIC

*We are the music makers,
And we are the dreamers of dreams...*

“What music do you like?” The question asked on every first date.

“That’s not music, that’s just noise!” Every parent’s review of their children’s favourite band.

“Music is the art which is most nigh to tears and memory.” Oscar Wilde on how a song can roll back the years and take you to a forgotten place with friends long gone.

Literature and music have always gone hand in hand. Poets and authors, from Shelley To Shakespeare and Keats to Austen have woven it as themes through their works. 2021 is the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Albert Hall, a venue which has seen every style of music performed beneath its iconic dome. To celebrate this, the 16th Elmbridge Literary Competition is looking for poems and short stories that take music as their inspiration.

Following the success of 2020’s ‘New World’, The Elmbridge Literary Competition is once more open to national and international submissions. Run in partnership between The R C Sherriff Trust and Elmbridge Borough Council, it is open to all ages.

Entry for adults is £5 with under 18s free.

Alongside the prizes for each age category The 2020 Competition includes The Elmbridge prize for the best story or poem in the adult category submitted by an Elmbridge resident.

The Competition will once again run in partnership with publishers Sampson Low, who will publish the winning entries as a Chapbook. (Small and affordable forms of literature, Chapbooks historically were sold on the streets, and covered a range of subjects from fairy tales and ghost stories to news of politics, crime or disaster.)

For further details about Chapbooks visit:

www.bl.uk/romantics-and-Victorians/articles/chapbooks

The closing date for entries in Friday 5 February 2021.

Full details, terms and conditions are available at www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk and www.elmbridge.gov.uk/culture or by contacting 01932 229996 or emailing arts@rcsherrifftrust.org.uk or arts@elmbridge.gov.uk

Terms and Conditions of Entry

Please read these carefully as some of the terms and conditions regarding lay out and submission have changed. Entries that DO NOT comply to the conditions set out below will not be accepted.

- Entry to the Elmbridge Literary Competition for adults is £5 with under 18s free. **Entry Fee:** Adult Entries, once submitted, the £5 entry fee should be payed via PayPal on the R C Sherriff Trust Website. Please ensure you use your name as reference. If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to The R C Sherriff Trust.

Age Categories:

- Ages 5 – 7; Little rhymes and stories.
- Ages 8 - 11 (Junior); Poems and short stories.
- Ages 11 (Secondary) - 13; Poems and short stories.
- Ages 14 - 18; Poems and short stories.
- Ages Adult; Poems and short stories.

A panel of professional authors, the Director of The RC Sherriff Trust and the Arts Development Officer for Elmbridge Borough Council will judge the entries.

Submission Format:

- All entries must be typed, using **Arial font** and double-spaced on single sides of A4 paper. **Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Short stories** must be in English, previously unpublished and a maximum length of 1000 words (8-13 years) or 1500 words (14+). **Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Poems** must be in English, previously unpublished and a maximum length of 30 lines typed, using a standard, legible font, double-spaced on single sides of A4 paper. **Entries that do not adhere to these conditions will not be considered.**
- **Little Rhymes and Stories for the 5-7 years** group should be no longer than 20 lines (Rhymes) or 500 words (Stories) and can be hand written (but must be legible). Where possible we suggest a typed copy is attached. **The Judges will not consider any entries which they cannot read.**
- All entries **must** be accompanied by a cover sheet stating: age category being entered, the title of the story/poem, word/line count, author's name, age (if under 18), a postal address and daytime telephone number and email address. **This should be the first page of all entries and NOT on a separate sheet or embedded in an email.**
- A maximum of one story and one poem per person can be entered.
- Where possible please email your entry.
- Entries must be submitted as a Word Document or a PDF. **Please do not send scanned PDFs.**
- Email entries to arts@rcsherrifftrust.org.uk

- For posted or hand-delivered submissions, please provide **six** copies.
- Entries cannot be returned.
- The Judging Panel's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- The closing date for entries is **Friday 5 February 2021 at 5pm. Entries received after this time and date will not be accepted.**
- Postal/hand-delivered entries to the RC Sherriff Trust, Hersham Technology Park, Sterling Suite, Molesey Rd, Hersham, KT12 4RZ
- Please mark your envelope and email title '**MUSIC**'.

Prizes:

- All prizes for Children's entries are in the form of book tokens. Entry to the Competition is free.
- 5-7 Year Olds: 1st £12 2nd £10 3rd £8
- 8-11 Year Olds: 1st £15 2nd £12 3rd £10
- 11-13 Year Olds: 1st £20 2nd £15 3rd £12
- 14-18 Year Olds: 1st £25 2nd £20 3rd £15
- All successful Adult entries are in the form of cash prizes.
- Entry to the Competition is £5. Payment can be made via the R C Sherriff Trust website: www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk/competitions (please ensure that the name by which you make the online payment is on your submission front page *if it differs from the name by which you have entered your short story or poem*) or by cheque made payable to 'The R C Sherriff Trust' and sent to: The RC Sherriff Trust, Hersham Technology Park, Sterling Suite, Molesey Rd, Hersham, KT12 4RZ (please ensure your name, the title of your short story/poem and age category in written on the reverse.)
- 19+ (Short Story): 1st £250 2nd £150 3rd £100
- 19+ (Poem): 1st £250 2nd £150 3rd £100
- **The Elmbridge Award**
£50 Book Token
Presented to the best adult short story or poem from an Elmbridge resident.

Winners: Short Story & Poetry Category:

The winning entries in each age group will have their work printed by Sampson Low as a Chapbook. (Chapbooks are A6 size (landscape or portrait orientation), 16 page (1x back cover, 1 x front cover, 14 x inner pages), full colour, ISBN, in plastic sleeve.)

100 copies printed per winning entry.

20 copies to Sampson Low (6 to send to deposit libraries - British Library, Oxford, Cambridge, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. 14 to recoup ISBN costs, plastic sleeve costs etc.)

60 copies to the author
10 for The RC Sherriff Trust
10 for Elmbridge Borough Council

- The winning, highly-commended and commended entries will be showcased online on the RC Sherriff and Elmbridge Borough Council websites.
- A Celebration of the Competition, featuring prize-giving and readings of winning and highly-commended entries, to which winning, highly-commended & commended writers and their guests will be invited, will take place on Saturday 21 March 2021.
- There is a **£10** charge if you would like to receive written feedback from the judges, **£25** if you would like a full written critique of your piece by one of the professional authors. (Payment must be made in advance via PayPal on the R C Sherriff website. Cheques must be made payable to The RC Sherriff Trust.)