

Words on Monday

Desert Blues – Curated by Poet in the City Hall One, 7pm

Poets and musicians have always given voice to the deep emotional connection we feel for our natural environment. This unique event will feature an evening of great poetry and amazing global sounds reflecting on the disquieting effects of humankind on the environment. The event is chaired by Lucy Duran, presenter of BBC Radio 3's *World Routes* and features the distinguished poets Patience Agbabi, Melanie Challenger and David Constantine. There will also be readings of work by the poets Bewketu Seyoum from Ethiopia, João Jesus de Paes Loureiro from Brazil, and Wulf Kirsten from Germany, and live music from world jazz ensemble, the Adriano Adewale Group.

Poet in the City is a registered charity committed to attracting new audiences to poetry, making new connections for poetry, and raising money to support poetry education, in particular the placing of poets in schools. You can find out more about the charity at www.poetinthecity.co.uk or by contacting info@poetinthecity.co.uk or 07908 367488.



Speakers



Lucy Duran, the daughter of a Spanish Republican exiled after the Civil War, was brought up in Chile, the USA, England and Greece. From her father she acquired an eclectic interest in music, including Andean music, Cuban music and Flamenco. After studying Music at King's College, London University, she fell in love with the ethereal sound of the West African kora. She joined the School of Oriental and African Studies (London University) in 1992 as Lecturer in African Music, receiving her doctorate in 1999. As a leading ethno-musicologist she has travelled widely around the world, and has also produced albums with various distinguished global artists including kora player Toumani Diabate, singer Kasse Mady Diabate and ngoni player Bassekou Kouyate. Since the 1980s she has also become a regular voice on radio, from 2000 as the presenter of *World Routes* on BBC Radio 3.



Patience Agbabi is a renowned poet and performer, whose entertaining and hard-hitting work ranges widely over contemporary themes. *R.A.W.*, her groundbreaking debut collection of poetry, was published in 1995. *Transformatrix*, a commentary on late twentieth-century Britain, was published in 2000, receiving excellent reviews. She is currently working on a third collection, *Bloodshot Monochrome*. Patience is also well known for her tours (including numerous foreign tours for the British Council), her residencies (which have included Eton College and a tattoo parlour) and her live performances (including the Glastonbury Festival and Soho Jazz Festival). In 2007 she was commissioned by *Poet in the City* and Lloyd's of London to produce a suite of poems about climate change as part of the *Trees in the City* project.



Melanie Challenger won the Eric Gregory Award for poetry in 2005. Her first published collection, *Galatea*, was shortlisted for the Forward Prize in 2007. In the same year she was appointed as Artist in Residence for the British Antarctic Survey, working alongside scientists in the regions of Antarctica and Chile, and staying on board RSS *James Clark Ross*. She used this opportunity to write extensively about the risks of extinction and the fragile equilibrium of our planet. She has also collaborated on creative projects with a huge range of organisations, including the Jewish Music Institute, Amnesty International, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and UNICEF. She also has worked in opera for a number of years and is still closely involved in music.



David Constantine is a distinguished poet, writer and translator. A Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, his poetry books include *Watching for Dolphins* (1983), winner of the Alice Hunt Bartlett Award, *Selected Poems* (1991), *Caspar Hauser* (1994), *The Pelt of Wasps* (1998) and *Something for the Ghosts* (2002). His *Collected Poems* was published in 2004. His translations include Friedrich Hölderlin's *Selected Poems* (1990, revised 1996), winner of the European Poetry Translation Prize. He is currently working on a translation of Goethe's *Faust* for Penguin Classics, *Part 1* of which was published in 2004. His novel *Davies* (1985) won the Southern Arts Literature Prize and his non-fiction book, *Early Greek Travellers and the Hellenic Ideal* (1984), won the 1986 Runciman Award. *Under the Dam*, a collection of short stories, was published in 2005. He is also co-editor of the literary journal *Modern Poetry in Translation*.



Adriano Adewale Group The evening also features live music from world-jazz ensemble, the Adriano Adewale Group. Adewale is an Afro-Brazilian percussionist and composer whose new quartet features Adewale on percussion and vocals; Nathan Riki Thomson on double bass, flutes and kalimba; Marcelo Andrade on sax, flutes and rabeca; and Kadialy Kouyate on kora and vocals. Rooted in the musical traditions of Nigeria, Angola and Brazil and infused with contemporary European classical and jazz styles, their sound is a truly global fusion of influences, and their live performances and debut album *Sementes* have met with rave reviews.

This Week at Kings Place

Mon 26 Jan Hall One 7pm	Words on Monday Desert Blues - Curated by Poet in the City
Tues 27 Jan Hall Two 7pm	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week 3 FILM: Quartets
Hall One 8pm	This Is Tuesday Christian Forshaw and The Sanctuary Ensemble Curated by John Metcalfe
Wed 28 Jan Hall One 7:30pm	Beethoven Unwrapped : Week 3 Orion String Quartet
Thur 29 Jan Hall Two 7pm	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week 3 Masterclass with Jean-Bernard Pommier
Hall One 7:30pm	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week 3 Orion String Quartet
Fri 30 Jan Hall One 7:30pm	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week 3 Beethoven's Piano Sonatas
Sat 31 Jan St Pancras Rm 7:30pm	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week 3 Beethoven Study Day: How and Why?
Hall One 11.30am	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week 3 FILM: Missa Solemnis
Hall One 7:30pm	Beethoven Unwrapped: Week 3 Beethovens String Quartets (6) The Orion Quartet

Exhibitions

Kings Place Gallery	Albert Irvin Six Paintings Albert Irvin A Retrospective
Pangolin London	Sterling Stuff

Modern Poetry in Translation

Poet in the City would like to express its warmest thanks to Modern Poetry in Translation (MPT) for its cooperation in programming this *Desert Blues* event. Tonight's programme features translations of the work of three poets from around the world drawn from *The Big Green Issue*, a recent edition of MPT, which is available for purchase after this event:

Bewketu Seyoum is a popular young Ethiopian poet and writer who lives in Addis Ababa. His first book of Amharic poems entitled *Unmanned Houses* was published in 2001. A second collection, entitled *Fireside Meditation*, appeared in 2008. His poetry is regarded as original, witty and epigrammatic, and draws on the ancient Ethiopian tradition of *qene*, short religious poems and word-plays. His work has been translated into English by Chris Beckett.

João Jesus de Paes Loureiro, born in a small town in the eastern Amazon region of Brazil, is a poet and professor of aesthetics at the Federal University of Pará (UFPA). His first poetry collection, *Tarefa*, was published in 1964, just before the military coup that brought dictatorship to Brazil, as a result of which Paes Loureiro was imprisoned for several months. His prolific writings have included many collections of poetry, and much of his work touches on the Amazon's indigenous history and on rural and cultural devastation. His work has been translated into English by Stefan Tobler.

Wulf Kirsten established his reputation as a poet in the former East Germany. Born in Meissen in Saxony in 1934, his writing is strongly influenced by his rural upbringing. Even in the 1970s, under Communism, he was speaking out against the loss of nature, landscape and the village as it had developed over centuries. His poem *Village* was written in 1974 and first published in 1977. It has been translated into English by Dennis Tomlinson.

Our Cafe, Restaurant and Bar opening hours are:

Green & Fortune Cafe - 7.30am to 7.30pm
Rotunda Restaurant - 12pm to 11pm
Rotunda Bar - 11am to 11pm
Concert Bar - 6pm to end of interval

Monday 26 January

Words on Monday

Desert Blues Curated by Poet in the City