

Media Release



The
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An evening of poetry and performance in Polish and English A celebration of Nobel Laureate Wislawa Szymborska

On the 11th May, the Wheeler Centre in association with the Australian Poetry Centre is celebrating the work of Wislawa Szymborska. In Poland, she is a beloved and respected figure: Her poems are widely read and memorised. This was true even before Szymborska won the Nobel Prize in 1996 and, since then, her international reputation has grown.

Tuesday 11 May 2010, 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Wislawa Szymborska: The Poet's Voice

**The Wheeler Centre Auditorium, 176 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne
FREE, bookings through wheelercentre.com**

Directed by Ellen Koshland, this dramatic event will combine readings in Polish and English. Szymborska's poems will be performed by Evelyn Krape, Robert Richter QC, Jacek Koman, Andrea Goldsmith and Marta Kaczmerak.

"Szymborska addresses the full spectrum of life, whether it is the harsh political realities that fill our newspapers, or the private moments of doubt, or the absurd task of writing a resume. In the context of general uncertainty, she is also able to honour the little miracles of everyday life."

Ellen Koshland, director *The Poet's Voice*

About Wislawa Szymborska:

Szymborska's poems speak to the human condition everywhere, as perhaps best illustrated by a poem *Photograph from September 11* which has received global attention. She was born in 1923 and since 1931 she has been living in Krakow, Poland. During 1953-1981 she worked as poetry editor and columnist in the Kraków literary weekly, *Zycie Literackie*. Szymborska has published 16 collections of poetry many of which have been translated. She is the Goethe Prize winner (1991) and Herder Prize winner (1995). She has a degree of Honorary Doctor of Letters of Poznan University (1995). In 1996 she received the Polish PEN Club prize.

About Ellen Koshland:

Ellen Koshland has produced other highly successful events celebrating poets and poetry, including the Melbourne Writers Festival's sold out sessions on Auden and Akhmatova. A number of things distinguish Koshland's productions: The emphasis on the poems themselves, rather than talking about them; The choice of readers who are not poets to emphasise the poetry's connection to a wide range of people. She has previously included readers as diverse as Julian Burnside, Victoria Glendinning, Bernard Schlink, Christos Tsiolkas and John Clarke who have all welcomed the chance to read poetry.

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The Wheeler Centre

A Victorian Government initiative and the centrepiece of Melbourne's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.