



FESTIVAL INTERNAZIONALE DI POESIA  
PAROLE SPALANCATE

# 30th GENOA INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL PAROLE SPALANCATE 2024

The biggest poetry event in Italy since 1995



The Genoa International Poetry Festival "Parole spalancate" (wide open words) has been created in 1995 by Italian poet and musician Claudio Pozzani 1995 who is still the director. It is organized by the cultural association Circolo dei Viaggiatori nel Tempo (CVT).

Its peculiarity is to present poetry in all its forms and in relation to the other arts (visual arts, music, dance, theater, painting, computer art, cinema, design, architecture) and with new technologies and media.

The key ideas behind the success of the Festival are:

- balance between internationally renowned authors and new emerging artists;
- poetry in all its forms: from the classic to the experimentation of the latest trends and in relation to music, theater, visual arts;
- a creative and innovative approach, suitable for all types of audience;
- a very varied proposal of events: readings, performances, concerts, installations, workshops;
- an international dimension: Parole spalancate is the only Italian literary festival that exported its format abroad: France, Belgium, Japan, Germany, Finland, Austria are some of the countries that have hosted events of the Festival;
- a special atmosphere that leads the artists to propose preview or exclusive shows.



## A great organizational effort to offer the public exclusive shows

To give an idea of the scope of this event, we can cite some data:



- the authors and artists participating so far have been 1900, coming from 91 world countries;
- there are more than 100 free events at each edition including readings, performances, concerts, theater and dance performances, conferences, book presentations, guided tours, workshops, multimedia installations, projections, exhibitions;
- the Festival takes place in the Palazzo Ducale (the Doges's Palace) and in other 40 venues involving squares, gardens, clubs, bookshops, libraries, museums, cinemas;
- Parole spalancate is the only Italian poetry festival to have invited 5 Nobel Prize winners for literature;

Among the participants, there are the Nobel Prize winners **Soyinka, Walcott, Coetzee, Gao e Milosz**, and artists such as **Lou Reed, Ray Manzarek (The Doors), Alvaro Mutis, Juan Gelman, Manuel Montalban, Adonis, Mahmoud Darwish, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Alejandro Jodorowsky, Michel Houellebecq, Irvine Welsh, Peter Hammill, Pete Sinfield, Greg Lake, John Giorno, Tony Harrison, PJ Harvey, Peter Greenaway, Paco Ibanez, Lydia Lunch, Amos Gitai, Blixa Bargeld, Grand Corps Malade, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Ben Jelloun**, e gli italiani **Mario Luzi, Marco Paolini, Alessio Boni, Stefano Benni, Michele Serra, Tonino Guerra, Dacia Maraini, Roberto Vecchioni, Caparezza, Alberto Fortis, David Riondino, Frankie NRG, Vinicio Capossela, Alessandro Bergonzoni, Luca Barbareschi, Pippo Delbono, Giorgio Albertazzi, Arnoldo Foà, Alessandro Haber, Giuseppe Cederna** e molti altri (lista completa su [www.parolespalancate.it](http://www.parolespalancate.it))

Within the Festival there are events that have become classics such as the Night of Poetry, Bloomsday and the Poetic Paths, that attract hundreds of spectators and which have been taken as an example by many other Italian cities.

All the shows are free, precisely to extend the dissemination of poetry to a transversal audience by age, culture and social class.

Parole spalancate offers poetry in all its forms and in relation to the other arts, in particular music, theater, plastic and visual arts, without stylistic or linguistic barriers.

Parole spalancate involves and collaborates with local cultural and business realities and has created a worldwide network with events, cultural institutes, embassies, bodies and institutions, which allows to be constantly updated on the various poetic and artistic trends .



## The Poetry Festival as a cultural bridge

Great attention is always paid to Europe and the rest of the world: Parole spalancate has established numerous cultural exchanges with institutes, foundations, embassies.

We recall that our event is the only one in Italy, in the poetry and literature sector, to have given birth to festivals in five foreign countries: Germany, France, Belgium, Finland, Japan.

As evidence of the work carried out in recent years, after the support of the European Community in 2008, in 2009 the Ministry of Culture awarded our Festival the prize for the best poetry event in Italy and in 2012 we were awarded the Prize Catullo for the diffusion of international poetry in Italy.

In 2015 the Festival founded the "Versopolis" platform, with 14 other European poetry festivals (now they are 30), in order to promote, translate and publish emerging authors with the support of the European Commission.



## Parole spalancate: a multimedia platform



For some years, and even more so during the pandemic, Parole spalancate has been a galaxy that includes social media, a YouTube channel, high-definition live streaming, a web radio, a blog and the official website that summarizes all these forms of production and communication. Thus was born the homonymous tv program (**Parole spalancate**) that presents the most important poets together with fragments of the video archive of the Festival with the great guests who have participated in 29 years. Another creation is the blog **elettRivista**, which in addition to poetry and the arts. deals with topics such as health, environment, sport, economy.

## The poetic reconstruction of the universe

Since 2004 the Festival has opened a special section entitled Poetic reconstruction of the universe, in which scientists, architects, stylists, designers, artists, philosophers, creatives in general are invited to give their vision of contemporary society and to hypothesize future scenarios. Guests include also **Douglas Hofstadter**, philosopher and Pulitzer Prize author of *Gödel, Escher, Bach*. An eternal bright garland; Richard Stallman creator of GNU and other open source software, the painter **Emilio Isgrò**, the designers **Alessandro Mendini** and **Denis Santachiara** and many others.



## Poevisioni: the word on the big screen

The Poevisioni review, curated by Maurizio Fantoni Minnella, is a section of "Parole spalancate" that has grown year after year. In the last years has hosted **Pippo Delbono, Peter Greenaway, Amos Gitai, Silvio Soldini, Gianni Amelio, Krzysztof Zanussi.**

Each year Poevisioni presents a famous director through an anthological cycle of his movies, as well as works by new emerging authors especially in the field of documentaries and reportage.



## A Festival attentive to social issues

Continuing the line that now distinguishes the Festival, every year there are events dedicated to the categories of authors and disadvantaged citizens, such as **Poeti dentro** and **Scrittori da una realtà parallela**

**Poeti dentro** is organized with the Berio Library and the Regional Superintendency of the Penitentiary Administration and is dedicated to the production of poetry and short stories by inmates in Ligurian, Piedmontese and Tuscan prisons.

With **Scrittori da una realtà parallela** the Festival explores the artistic universe of poets and authors with disabilities who, through their publications, tell of difficulties, suffering, integration problems, but also the positive aspects linked to solidarity, social sharing, overcoming barriers which previously seemed impassable.

## Salone dei Resilienti the only Italian book fair dedicated to poetry



The Salone dei Resilienti was born in 2018 from the desire to create within the International Poetry Festival of Genoa a space for presentation, sale and cultural exchange between the various realities that operate in poetry in Italy and which are often marginalized in book salons. or cannot participate due to prohibitive costs.

In this regard every year printed and online magazines, blogs, literary groups, associations, publishing houses are invited to participate, giving them the opportunity to exhibit and present their production.

Precisely to contribute to the dissemination of poetry publishing, Parole spalancate does not ask for any registration fee, offering free exhibition spaces and rooms for presentations.

## Gli Aperitivi Poetici: face to face with the authors

The Poetic Aperitifs have always had a very important place in the programming of the Festival. They are informal events that allow the public to know the authors invited to the Festival, ask them questions and curiosities while tasting local food and wine products.

## Poetry in a bottle: the award dedicated to "eclectic" poets



In the past editions the prize, which consists of a special supply of bottles of wine, went to Tonino Guerra, Michele Serra, Giuseppe Cederna, Manuel Agnelli and Greg Lake. "Poetry in a Bottle" wants to be a different poetry prize, out of the usual logic. The link between wine and poetry is made of experience and creativity, measure and technique. With this award, recognition is conferred not only on the poet as the author of verses but, above all, on the human being and his creative and poetic approach to life and art.

## The Stanza della Poesia in Palazzo Ducale: a year-round festival

La Stanza della Poesia was founded in 2001 in the Doge's Palace to give the Festival a continuity of programming throughout the year, to offer emerging authors the opportunity to present their works and collaborate with schools.

Baptized by an exceptional godfather like Alejandro Jodorowsky, the Poetry Room offers every year over 120 free events including readings, conferences, screenings, performances, concerts, workshops.

Inside it has a library dedicated to poetry, with volumes by well-known and emerging authors, which can be consulted freely.

Since 2021 it has become a Center of Artistic Production, producing television programs, podcasts, web radios, interactive cultural surveys.



## Big names and emerging authors: a Festival with a unique atmosphere



All guests present at the festival previews of their works or performances and unpublished texts, exclusively.

It should be remembered that since its inception this Festival has been the venue chosen by great names and emerging authors to preview volumes or performances, just remember Alvaro Mutis, the European preview of his latest book of poems that Manuel Vasquez Montalban wanted to do in Genoa, the only Italian date of Lou Reed with his reading "POEtry", the tribute concert for the 30th anniversary of Jim Morrison's death that Ray Manzarek did in 2001, choosing our Festival as the only European date together with Paris .

We could also mention other authors such as the Nobel Laureates Soyinka, Coetzee, Walcott, Gao and Milosz or the Pulitzer Prizes Hofstadter, Strand and Komunyaaka who came

to Genoa for the first time thanks to the Poetry Festival, and many other artists attracted by the atmosphere unique of this event.

## Production of new shows Translation and publication of foreign authors



Another important aspect is the impetus that our Festival has given to poetry publishing, with many publishers who have met and published foreign authors translated for the first time on the occasion of our event.

This characteristic makes the Parole Spalancate International Poetry Festival a rare example in the Italian panorama of an event that produces culture and which is not a simple showcase of well-known publishers. Over the years, our Festival has gathered around it some of the most important translators in their respective languages, contributing to a continuous exchange with the countries of the invited authors which does not end with the end of the June event but which is present throughout the year.

## The Night of Poetry: space for emerging talents

The Night of Poetry is a unique initiative of its kind in Italy, born 20 years ago. Over 70 events and 120 artists involved in shows, concerts, readings and performances from 6pm until late at night in a street or area of the city that is particularly interesting in terms of architectural and / or landscape beauty.

This initiative, especially open to new Italian authors, demonstrates the creative and cultural ferment that Italy continues to express through poetic talents and interesting artists, and promotes young authors and innovative performances that combine tradition and new trends.



## Events for children and families



During the Festival there are many events dedicated to the youngest, continuing the work that the Circolo dei Viaggiatori nel Tempo carries out during the year in schools. In particular, the project The word to poetry, dedicated precisely to the meeting between pupils and contemporary poets, which has also given life to an anthology with the greatest living authors, from Magrelli to Buffoni, Lamarque, Anedda, Mussapi and many others. Over the years, authors such as Piumini, Tognolini, puppet theaters from all over the world, street artists have arrived.

**THE NEXT 2024 EDITION OF "WIDE OPEN WORDS"  
IT WILL TAKE PLACE IN GENOA FROM 6th TO 16th of JUNE 2024**