



THE NATIONAL LITERARY PRIZE FOR POETRY 'PENYO PENEV' WAS AWARDED TO PETAR CHUHOV

Wednesday, 8 May 2024

The literary award for poetry "Penyo Penev" 2024 was presented at an official ceremony last evening. The winner Mr Petar Chuhov received his prize for a significant contribution to the development of Bulgarian poetry.

"It is a great pleasure for me to present this year's award to an unusual but very relevant poet, such as Petar Chukhov. It is no coincidence that the award goes to a person who has many awards and recognitions from different places in Bulgaria," said the Mayor of Dimitrovgrad Municipality Mr Ivo Dimov at the presentation of the award and emphasized that the poet is already part of the history of Dimitrovgrad. He especially thanked the selection committee, chaired by Prof. Amelia Licheva, and the Municipal Council of Dimitrovgrad, which approved the proposal and wished the laureate new creative ideas.

Petar Chuhov thanked for the award and shared that Penyo Penev is one of the authors whose poems he remembers from his school years.

"I consider myself related to Penyo Penev because, I perceive myself as a poet of absence", with these words the poet Petar Chukhov accepted the award.

An excited speech for the laureate was delivered by the writer and editor Mr Vladimir Zarev, who defined Petar Chukhov as a poet who has the talent to capture and manifest the moments through his haiku poetry, transforming the existence into narrative and meaning. "For Petar Chuhov, poetry in all its dimensions is a way of being. In each of his new books, he is different, unexpected, surprising with his discoveries and still belongs to himself with his unique insights, metaphors and points," said Mr Zarev about the laureate's poetry.

Mr Hairy Hamdan who is a poet, writer, translator and the winner of the International Literary Award for 2022 also shared words about the laureate this year.

The audience enjoyed the poetic-musical performance "Wherever we are" based on the poems of Petar Chukhov in cooperation with Ivan Hristov. They are the founders of the ethnic rock group "Gologan", being popular since 2004.

The official ceremony began earlier with musical performances by the Brass Band Dimitrovgrad. The Acoustic Jazz Trio added to the atmosphere at the end of the evening.

Professional details:

Petar Chuhov was born on June 23, 1961 in Sofia. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Library Science and a Master's degree in Sociology from Sofia University. He worked for the National Library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius", and currently - for the Metropolitan Library.

He is a writer for dozens of Bulgarian editions. His first book is lyrical - "The Garden of Weak Reality" (1995).

He is the editor and author of the foreword of the first anthology of Bulgarian haiku published abroad - in Budapest, 2012.

He is an author, included in many anthologies in Bulgaria and abroad. His works have been translated into over 20 languages and published in over 25 countries.

He translates from English.

P. Chuhov is a participant in literary performances (such as "Literature in Action", a project of the British Council in Bulgaria, together with British authors, 2002), festivals and readings in Slovakia, North Macedonia, Japan, Croatia, USA, Lithuania, Switzerland, Germany, Romania, Albania, Slovenia, Sweden, Hungary and Russia. He taught writing poetry at MONTFIZ, at the Valery Petrov Creative Academy, at the Unity Academy, and in the "Rabbit Hole" Creative Academy.

Mr Chuhov is a member of the Management Board of the Bulgarian PEN Center, the Association of Bulgarian Writers, Bulgarian Haiku Club, Haiku Club "Sofia", and World Haiku Association.

Petar Chuhv is the author of 19 books, of which 13 collections of poems and 3 books for children.

He is the winner of numerous awards among which "South Spring" for debut (1996); second prize in the competition of "Literaturen Vestnik" (2000); "Egoist" magazine book of the year (2000); the national prize for poetry "Ivan Nikolov" for the collection of poems "Little Days" (2002); the grand prize for SMS poetry of NDK and M-Tel (2004); 'Slaveykova Nagrada' for lyrical poem (2005, 2016); first prize in the competition "Golden Chain" (2007); the grand prize of the Basho museum in Japan (2007); prize from the International Haiku Competition in Moscow (2012); the grand prize of the love poetry competition "The Magic of Love" (2013); second prize of the poetry competition "In the skirts of Vitosha" (2014); national award for lyrics "Ivan Peychev" (2017); nomination for the "Balkanika" literary award for 2018; accompanying award from the National Poetry Contest "Hristo Fotev" (2022).







