Carol Ann Duffy

Duffy is one of the nation’s best-known poets. Her poems have a wide appeal and frequently appear in ‘The Nation’s Favourite ...’ anthologies.

In 2009 she became the UK’s first female Poet Laureate.

Duffy writes in everyday language. She writes of life and is not afraid to tackle the sadness or suffering that accompanies it, exploring themes such as gender, culture, isolation and social inequality.

Benjamin Zephaniah

Benjamin Zephaniah was born and raised in Birmingham, England. He cannot remember a time when he was not creating poetry but this had nothing to do with school where poetry meant very little to him. In fact he had finished full time education at the age of 13.

His poetry is strongly influenced by the music and poetry of Jamaica and what he calls ‘street politics’. In his poetry of performance, the Dub (Reggae) Poet injected new life into the British poetry scene.