

CIARAN CARSON

Poet and novelist Ciaran Carson was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1948. After graduating from Queen's University, Belfast, he worked for the Arts Council of Northern Ireland until 1998. He won an Eric Gregory Award in 1978.

His collections of poetry include *The Irish for No* (1987), winner of the Alice Hunt Bartlett Award; *Belfast Confetti* (1990), which won the *Irish Times* Irish Literature Prize for Poetry; and *First Language: Poems* (1993), winner of the T. S. Eliot Prize. His prose includes *The Star Factory* (1997) and *Fishing for Amber* (1999). His most recent novel, *Shamrock Tea* (2001), explores themes present in Jan van Eyck's painting *The Arnolfini Marriage*. His translation of Dante's *Inferno* was published in November 2002. *Breaking News* (2003), won the Forward Poetry Prize (Best Poetry Collection of the Year). His poetry collection *For All We Know* (2008), was shortlisted for both the 2008 T. S. Eliot Prize and the Costa Poetry Award. His latest collection is *On the Night Watch* (2009).

Ciaran Carson is also an accomplished musician, and is the author of *Last Night's Fun: About Time, Food and Music* (1996), a study of Irish traditional music. He lives in Belfast.