



# Old Norse Poetry in Performance

## Call for Participants

*Old Norse Poetry in Performance: Text and Texture*  
Two-day conference, 22-23 June 2019

Christ Church, Oxford

The organising committee would like to issue a call for participants for a forthcoming two-day conference on Old Norse Poetry in Performance at the University of Oxford this June.

Building on work done at the 2016 conference of the same name, this gathering will bring together literary scholars, actors and dramaturgs to explore the dramatic potential in the Old Norse-Icelandic poetic corpus. This year the conference will focus particularly on material culture, allowing participants to draw together two distinct approaches to research, these being, respectively, 'performance-led' and 'performance-based'. Papers and performances might examine the material contexts of medieval performance and modern reinterpretation (such as location and costume). Papers might also examine performance itself as material in exploring, for example, vocal acoustics and physical movement in re-imagined 'performance arenas'.

One of the principal goals of the conference will be to provide a corpus of experimental stage work upon which further research can draw, as well as to contextualise the critical work currently being done in this field by setting it alongside the practical experimental work of theatrical practitioners. The conference will operate as a focus for dramaturgs and academics to encounter one another's approaches to a notoriously resistant and fragmentary literature, both in order to aid the construction of a historical understanding of Old Norse poems as performance texts and to establish a practical research platform that is simultaneously experimental and scholarly.

Proposals for both papers and performances are welcome and might cover (but are not limited to) the following areas of enquiry:

- The historical and literary evidence for performance conventions associated with the poems;
- The possible relationship between masks, pictorial representations of performance and the poetic corpus;

- The intersection between theatre/performance, ritual and location in relation to the poems;
- The performance of prosimetrical texts;
- Evidence concerning the make-up of medieval audiences and their expectations/reception of poetry in performance;
- Performance dynamics encoded in eddic or skaldic poems;
- Acoustic, technical and dramaturgical devices encoded in the poems;
- The practical demands of 'staging' eddic or skaldic recitals;
- The interplay between action and text;
- The qualities which make/made for an effective recitation;
- The evidence for a medieval tradition of performance criticism;
- A suitable vocabulary for the discussion of Old Norse poetry and performance.

### **Duration of presentations**

Individual papers: 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion

Performances: 10 to 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes of discussion

### **Proposals**

All proposals (abstracts) should fully and clearly describe the topic of the presentation. For individual papers or performances a proposal of c. 300 words should be submitted.

Proposals should include the participant's name, affiliation and contact details.

### **Deadline**

Proposals should be submitted to [oldnorsepoetryinperformance@gmail.com](mailto:oldnorsepoetryinperformance@gmail.com) by midnight GMT on **1 April 2019**. Late proposals will not be accepted.

### **Programme and registration**

The conference programme will be announced, and registration opened, in April 2019.

Further information can be obtained from the convenors, Annemari Ferreira, William Brockbank, Caitlin Ellis and Brian McMahon ([oldnorsepoetryinperformance@gmail.com](mailto:oldnorsepoetryinperformance@gmail.com))

Website: <http://oldnorsepoetryinperformance.com>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oldnorsepoetryinperformance>

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