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## TOMAS VENCLOVA

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For immediate release

To celebrate World Poetry Day on Wednesday 21 March, a day of recognition for the importance of poetry across the world, Web of Stories is releasing brand new recordings of Lithuanian award-winning poet Tomas Venclova reflecting on his writing and the spellbinding stories of his life

The first World Poetry Day took place on 21 March 2000, created by UNESCO to promote the reading, writing, publishing and teaching of poetry across the globe. To celebrate, watch the compelling recordings of Tomas Venclova, Lithuanian scholar, poet, author and translator of literature.

Born on 11 September 1937, Venclova is the author of collections of poems, poetry-translations, essays and articles. His poetry collections have appeared in numerous languages and he is the recipient of many international poetry prizes. He has also translated many works of well-known poets into Lithuanian, among them TS Eliot, WH Auden, Charles Baudelaire and Boris Pasternak.

In these absorbing clips, Venclova recounts his upbringing in Lithuania, including how he and his father had staunchly opposing political views. He also depicts how his first poems were dedicated to the Hungarian Revolution and despite not being published, they were circulated among groups of people: *'I can say with pride that many, many years later when Hungary and Lithuania were free, I received a Hungarian medal for supporting the Hungarian Revolution then through my poems.'*

He also reminisces about his decision to emigrate to America, losing his Soviet citizenship, being offered a job at Yale and looks back over his career as a writer since leaving Lithuania: *'When I left, I thought that it was possible that I'd end up as a lorry driver, for example, or a cleaner or a road layer. But that didn't happen, I'd been a philologist and a writer and I remained a philologist and a writer.'*

All of Venclova's engaging and insightful recordings can be watched as a number of short clips, all with a fully searchable transcript. All Web of Stories videos are easy to share with friends and colleagues, and may be embedded into personal blogs and websites.

Find out more:  
<http://www.webofstories.com/people/tomas.venclova/1>

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### ABOUT WEB OF STORIES

Everyone has a story to tell. Over time many stories become forgotten, but now Web of Stories offers members of the public the chance to tell their stories for future generations to enjoy. The project is built on the belief that we all have wonderful stories to share, and have family and friends whose tales we would like to hear.

Web of Stories began as an archive of life stories told by some of the great scientists, writers and artists of our time. As the number of stories grew, it became obvious that some were on related topics and that a web was slowly being created of connected stories.

We welcome anyone to come and talk about virtually anything they like. Just like our famous speakers, it is an account of their experiences as they remember them.

### CONTACT

For more information on Web of Stories or any other video interview with Web of Stories please contact the Press Desk on +44(0)20 7323 0323 or [press@webofstories.com](mailto:press@webofstories.com)

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