**the 12 most beautiful hungarian poems**

Selection by literary historian Balázs Fűzfa

Endre Ady, *Tracking on a Cart Tonight*

János Arany, *The Two Pages of Szondi*

Mihály Babits, *An Evening Question*

Dániel Berzsenyi, *As Winter Approaches*

Attila József, *Consciousness*

Dezső Kosztolányi, *Daybreak Drunkenness*

László Nagy, *Who Will Take Love*

Sándor Petőfi, *End of September*

János Pilinszky, *Apocrypha*

Miklós Radnóti, *Letter to My Wife*

Mihály Vörösmarty, *The Old Gipsy*

Sándor Weöres *Valse, Triste (“Sad Waltz”)*

The series of programmes called “*The 12 most beautiful poems”* took place between 2007 to 2013 in the Carpathian-basin. The project was launched and run by the Szombathely-based *Program for Personal Involvement and Experience in Teaching Literature*.

The expressed aim of this series of conferences and books was to make attempt at re-reading, re-thinking and re-interpreting these 12 masterpieces witihin the Hungarian literary canon.

In the course of the six years 12 volumes have been published, 12 films have been made, over 400 conference papers have been read, and approximately 12 thousand students and adults have recited poems publicly and aloud. From conference to conference, professions and generations met due to the good services of an immortal poem.

However, the poetic texts not just served as pretexts for the gatherings, but they also became a noble and creative beginning of something we just call the intention and will to understand the other.

For literature can teach us how to get rid of our inherent egotism: just like letters apparently denying themselves in favor of forming sensible words, so words too renounce a part of themselves so that they be arranged into sentences, creating thus something that is new and prime.

Let us hope that this dozen poems *en masse* can tell more about the world and man shivering and laughing in it than the individual texts would on their own.

*Balázs Fűzfa*

program manager