

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves presented the Young Cultural Figure Award that the President's Cultural Foundation assigned to poet Kristiina Ehin.

"Poetry is one of the richest parts of Estonian culture and it is hard to imagine Estonians without poetry," President Ilves said. "I am glad that the Cultural Foundation decided to give the prize to Kristiina Ehin, because Ehin's works are also very effective in other languages. Therefore many translations of her poetry have been made."

"I wish to thank Kristiina Ehin for her poetry collection, which I have enjoyed through the years," the President said and also recommended that all Estonians who have yet to do so become acquainted with Kristiina Ehin's work.

The prize was awarded for the seventh time. In previous years, the Young Cultural Figure Award has been presented to ballerina Luana Georg (2007), composer Helena Tulve (2006), director Jaanus Rohumaa (2005), conductor Anu Tali (2004), literary critic Jan Kaus (2003) as well as composer Tõnu Kõrvits and folk musician Krista Sildoja (2002).

The Young Cultural Figure Award is intended for cultural figures of Estonian descent who are 35 or young, whose artistic achievements have received broad recognition, and whose work or artistic activity has significantly helped to introduce Estonia and its culture to the world. The 75,000-kroon prize is financed by Toomas Luman, a member of the Cultural Foundation Supervisory Board.

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