

## *Storm Watcher: The New Hybrid Work by Poet Winter Emily Isaacson*



**October 17, 2025**

Winter is Emily Isaacson. Also known as W.E. Isaacson to book-lovers, she is at the helm of her life, and is re-framing the narrative this November. As a poet who has been publishing for over 14 years since her first three volume collection came out in 2011, she is now releasing her 16<sup>th</sup> poetry book. The luminous collection *Storm Watcher* spans lifetimes and is 261 pages, a hybrid creation combining both poetry and memoir.

Said to publish voluminous collections, Isaacson has noted in her new book, “I usually release novel-length poetry books. Poetic maximalism contrasts with the pared-down nature of modern poetic trends, with its spare and anorexic verse.” She observed that

maximalism followed minimalism, as the forced poverty of each individual imposed by the pandemic culture lent itself to a romantic and artistic comeback.

The poetry collection contains over 85 new poems, and will be published in paperback, hardcover, and e-book by her publishing imprint Potter's Press at The Wild Lily Institute. It showcases more than pretty eye candy for verse, but magnificent in-depth compositions of landscape-like proportions. These word paintings of 7 stanzas called Requiems, are a form she has self-developed, each stanza in the form of a rhyming Petrarchan sonnet.

The soaring arcs and long character development of "Requiems" she describes as central to the poem's effect elicit appreciation from even the most inexperienced listener. The Requiems are followed by 10-stanza Da Capo Arias, and 21-stanza Oratorios, a sample of which are included in her book. The poems are not only 14 lines per stanza, but also have a rhyme scheme, and are 10 syllables per line.

To quote from her introduction, "The idea of writing a rhyming poem is to dip one's feet in the salt water of yesterday. It is difficult to write a rhyming poem and write one well. One must be subtle, yet satisfying." She goes on to say that she studied other rhyming poets such as English poets Ruth Pitter, C.S. Lewis, Christina Rossetti, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and William Shakespeare, as well as American writers Anne Morrow Lindbergh, and Edna St. Vincent Millay.

The completed works of the Canadian poet have been featured on her blog, YouTube, website, and Facebook, since she declared to be spending two years learning about the women subjects of J.W. Waterhouse, the Pre-Raphaelite painter (1849-1917). Attracting a devoted following, she has featured small YouTube videos of her poetry paired with images, video clips, and music tracks as a multimedia production that is 7-30 minutes. These have aired regularly on her channel, with movie titles such as *Ophelia*, *Elaine*, *Juliet*, *Miranda* and *Thisbe*.

To quote the "Requiem of Cinderella":

"she rode from her camp  
of hundred-year-old mansion Le Gall Gorse,  
where evil stepmother next made her home  
with her two daughters, wild moor hills of France  
subduing Violet 'cross Finistère . . ."

Isaacson's spidery handwriting records, scrawling poems for the last 35 years since she was first published at thirteen in a journal for doctor's offices called *Unicorns Be*; now as she approaches her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday this December, the writings she has collected for her

readers hold the true record. In honour of her birthday she will be hosting a small “Winteriade” for her close friends and family members.

A Winteriade is a seasonal celebration of poetry, music, and fellowship, modelled after the historic Schubertiades of the 1820s. These gatherings, once centred around the works of Austrian composer Franz Schubert, brought together friends and admirers in private homes to enjoy music, poetry, and artistic conversation. The Winteriade carries forward that spirit of intimacy and artistry, reimagining it for the modern day while embracing the quiet beauty and reflective atmosphere of the winter season.

The origins of the Schubertiade trace back to Vienna, where small groups would gather to experience the artistry of a single voice or a shared performance in close quarters. These were evenings of refinement and connection, where the boundary between performer and audience was softened, and where art became a living conversation. The Winteriade honours this tradition, offering an environment where the works of poet Winter Emily Isaacson can be heard, appreciated, and discussed in warm company with a warm cup of coffee or spiced tea in hand.

Designed as an intimate event, set within a salon, coffee shop, or similarly inviting venue, guests are welcomed into a space where readings of winter-themed poetry mingle with music and gentle conversation. The performances at a Winteriade draw from a rich selection of Emily Isaacson’s work, including new poems and chosen favourites from her published collections. Each piece is presented with the intention of capturing the nuances of her stylistic legacy—her long history in the Fraser Valley of publishing poetry collections, their unique brilliance, and quiet capacity for bringing out the artist and art lover in everyone. Musical interludes and collaborative poetry discussions may be included, enhancing the sensory experience and echoing the diversity once found in Schubertiades, where song, spoken word, and even discussion could share the same stage.

For Winter 2025, the Winteriade will be held in a "by invitation only" location in the Fraser Valley: in early December, but exact details will be relayed with an invitation from the poet. Locals, readers, and lovers of the arts are invited to take part in these gatherings, not simply as spectators but as participants in a tradition of shared culture. By reviving the salon-style artistry of the past and weaving it with the voices of the present, the Winteriade is a season-focused event—an oasis of light, warmth, and inspiration amid the frost of winter.

Isaacson’s iconic poetry influence on the Fraser Valley has a dozen people casually lining up every month for the open mic at the Clearbrook Library in Abbotsford. She has a unique way of inspiring others in their art forms. Here among the dusty stacks she reads with the Fraser Valley Poets Society, a chance to gain experience reading poetry in public for novice writers, to more accomplished launches for seasoned authors.

Isaacson will launch three new books at Clearbrook Library in Abbotsford on Saturday, November 1, at 2 pm with the Fraser Valley Poets Society, followed by an open mic and book signing. The new books will be *The Intercessions: From the Ashes of Notre Dame*, *Storm Watcher*, and *Benediction of the Singer: A Commentary*. Also reach out for an early-bird copy at her winter website: <http://www.winterpoet.com>

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*More information*

*New Books:*

*The Intercessions: From the Ashes of Plague* <https://www.wildlilyinstitute.ca/the-intercessions>

*Storm Watcher:* <https://www.wildlilyinstitute.ca/storm-watcher>

*Benediction of the Singer:* <https://www.wildlilyinstitute.ca/benediction-of-the-singer>