



Helen Vendler, a former President of the Modern Language Association, is currently Arthur Kingsley Porter University Professor at Harvard University. Professor Vendler has been a frequent and popular visitor to the Yeats International Summer School where she has a loyal following of devoted students. Widely regarded as one of the most eminent poetry critics in the English-speaking world, she is the indispensable critic of many major poets from the 17th century to the early 20th century and also a leading authority on contemporary poetry. She was for many years poetry critic for *The New Yorker*, and is a

frequent contributor to the *New York Review of Books*, the *London Review of Books* and many other periodicals. She is author of more than twelve books of criticism, including studies of W.B. Yeats, George Herbert, John Keats, Wallace Stevens, Seamus Heaney, and Shakespeare's Sonnets. She has authored several distinguished collections of essays such as *The Music of What Happens: Poems, Poets, Critics: The Breaking of Style*; *The Given and the Made: Strategies of Poetic Redefinition*; *Coming of Age as a Poet*; *Poets Thinking: Pope, Whitman, Dickinson, Yeats*; *Invisible Listeners: Lyric Intimacy in Herbert, Whitman and Ashbery*; and *Our Secret Discipline: Yeats and Lyric Form* (Harvard University Press, 2007). She was editor of *Voices and Visions: the poet in America* (companion volume to the popular PBS TV series of that name). She is author of the poetry text book, *Poetry, Poems, Poets* (Bedford), which has been in use in classrooms across the world. She has been the recipient of many honorary degrees and has won many prestigious book awards, including the James Russell Lowell Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism. The Yeats Society are delighted that Helen will open the 50th anniversary summer school in Sligo in 2009.