

Sacha Abercorn
The Duchess of Abercorn

The Pushkin Trust began as The Pushkin Prize in Ireland in 1987. It was founded by Sacha Abercorn, the great-great-great granddaughter of the famous Russian poet, Alexander Pushkin, who was acclaimed for having brought the voice of Russia to the Russian people.

The Pushkin Prize came into being as a creative writing competition in primary schools from both traditions in Ireland, north and south, to help children express their thoughts and feelings by creative means - to find their voice. The Prizes evolved into a Trust and is celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year.

Sacha came to live in Northern Ireland in Co Tyrone in 1966 when she married James Hamilton, now the Duke of Abercorn. They have three children and three grandchildren. She published a book of prose-poems *Feather from the Firebird* in 2003. She received an Honorary Degree from the University of Ulster in 2003 and the OBE in 2008.