

# TED<sup>x</sup>Exeter

**x = independently organized TED event**

## Press release

### Slam poet's TEDxExeter video is one of the 1% posted on TED.com website

Pun-tastic and poignant, Harry Baker's poetry had him named winner of the Poetry Slam World Cup in 2012. Now his performance at TEDxExeter in April 2014 has won him another prized accolade: the video of his love poem for prime numbers has been posted on the International [TED.com website](#).

Under 1 per cent of the videos from locally organised TEDx events around the world are selected for posting on TED.com. Harry Baker's is the fourth from [TEDxExeter](#) to be recognised in this way. His performance has already gone viral and been viewed nearly 169,000 times on the TEDx YouTube channel. On [TED.com](#) it will reach a much larger audience – it has been live less than 24 hours and has already been viewed more than 82,000 times.

In its first year (2012) two of the 13 speakers at TEDxExeter were selected for TED.com. Nobel Peace Prize nominee [Scilla Ellworthy](#) who spoke about fighting with non-violence and [Bandi Mbubi](#) whose demands for mobile phones and other technology to be free of conflict minerals has inspired a growing movement.

[Karima Bennoune's](#) powerful talk last year about the brave people living in Muslim majority countries who are resisting the Islamist threat has had almost 1.25m views since it was posted on TED.com in July 2014. It has been translated into 21 languages including French and Arabic, and like our other talks has a truly global audience. And now Harry's clever, funny and moving performance has also been recognised.

Harry is in his final term of a maths degree at the University of Bristol. When he graduates, he wants to be a full-time writer. On hearing that his performance will be posted on TED.com he says:

"This is nuts. It's crazy, stupid, brilliant nuts. When I got the email I was in an algebraic number theory lecture and I wanted to scream, but I don't think that anyone would have understood.

"I love what I do, and I want to do it forever. I am going to do it forever. I loved performing at TEDxExeter because it felt like what I had to say was important. I was doing the same poems that I've performed to audience of six people in a pub basement, and I was performing them between a guy who invents robot hands and a woman who had triplets and then went to both the North and South Pole. That's fun. Now it's going on the main site with the crazy beatbox guy and Bono. I'm really happy.

“I write stuff to try and connect with people, I always have. It being shared on TED.com just means it connects with a whole lot more people overnight and hopefully can continue in the future. Life is exciting.”

TEDxExeter organiser and licensee Claire Kennedy adds. “We are thrilled that four of our talks are on TED.com. We already know from our own website stats that we have visitors from around the world. The top three countries are the UK, USA and China, with visitors from Ukraine, India, Vietnam, Romania and many more.

“Ideas generated here at TEDxExeter are inspiring and impacting people in incredible ways, reaching the world and linking our city and our sponsors to local, national and international audience. With more talks on TED.com that reach will be even greater.”

TEDxExeter 2015 conference will take place on 24 April 2015. The theme is Taking the long view. Information about the speakers is available at [tedxexeter.com/events/tedxexeter-2015/](http://tedxexeter.com/events/tedxexeter-2015/).

**For more information** pictures or to interview Harry Baker, please contact Cathy Debenham, [cathy@tedxexeter.com](mailto:cathy@tedxexeter.com), 07786 440129.

## Notes to editors

Harry’s debut anthology The Sunshine Kid is available at [www.harrybaker.co](http://www.harrybaker.co).

[TEDxExeter](http://TEDxExeter) is organised by a team of local volunteers.

It is made possible by the generosity of local companies who support the event. The full list of sponsors for TEDxExeter 2015 is:

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Follow TEDxExeter on Twitter at [twitter.com/TEDxExeter](https://twitter.com/TEDxExeter).

**About TEDx, x = independently organized event**

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TED Talks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

### **About TED**

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. Started as a four-day conference in California almost 30 years ago, TED has grown to support its mission with multiple initiatives. The two annual TED Conferences invite the world's leading thinkers and doers to speak for 18 minutes on a diverse mix of topics. Many of these talks are then made available, free, at TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Nandan Nilekani, Philippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Isabel Allende and former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. The TED2015 Conference takes place in Vancouver, British Columbia, along with the TEDActive simulcast in neighboring Whistler. TEDWomen2015 takes place in Monterey, California.

TED's media initiatives include TED.com, where new TED Talks are posted daily; the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative TED-Ed; and TEDBooks, short e-books on powerful ideas. TED has established the annual TED Prize, where exceptional individuals with a wish to change the world get help translating their wishes into action; TEDx, which supports individuals or groups in hosting local, self-organized TED-style events around the world; and the TED Fellows program, helping innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

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For information about TED's upcoming conferences, visit <http://www.ted.com/registration>.

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