Press Release 29 May 2017

# Wolf Erlbruch Accepts Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award Before Full Stockholm Concert Hall

**Wolf Erlbruch tonight received the** **Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award from H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria. Swedish Minister of Culture and Democracy, Mrs Alice Bah Kuhnke, gave a speech in honour of the laureate.**

During the evening, musical entertainment was provided by opera singer **Rickard Söderberg** and the Sami artist **Sofia Jannok**. A dance adaption of Wolf Erlbruch’s book *Duck, Death and the Tulip* was performed by **Fredrik Quiňones** and **Stacey Aung**, choreographed by **Mari Carrasco**. The ceremony was hosted by **Yukiko Duke**, journalist and critic. Apart from the prize sum, 5 million SEK, the laureate received a diploma illustrated by **Marcus-Gunnar Pettersson** and **Maja K Zetterberg**.

Erlbruch spoke about relations between text and illustration, the difficulties of sometimes finding the right pictures but also how some texts more or less illustrate themselves. As an example of the latter he read *One Morning I found a Dead Mole* by Seamus Heaney.

In her congratulatory speech, Minister Alice Bah Kuhnke said:

“Mr Erlbruch is a brave writer and in many ways his writing is reminiscent of Astrid Lindgren’s. His work reflects what children’s lives are like – they contain the light-hearted and the deeply existential, side by side. We are in awe of the incomprehensible, we find happiness in small pleasures and we become angry over injustices.”

**About Wolf Erlbruch**
Born in 1948, is a German illustrator and picturebook author. He has written some ten books of his own and illustrated nearly fifty titles by other authors. He is best known for his illustrations of The Story of the Little Mole Who Knew It Was None of His Business (1994), which became a great success around the world.

**For further information, please contact:**

Mariella Kucer, Communications Officer

Tel +46(0)765401017

E-mail: mariella.kucer@alma.se

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) is the world's largest prize for children's and young adult literature. The award, which amounts to SEK 5 million, is awarded annually to a single recipient or to several. Authors, illustrators, oral storytellers and those active in reading promotion may be rewarded. The award is designed to promote interest in children's and young adult literature, and in children's rights, globally. An expert jury selects the winners from candidates nominated by institutions and organisations worldwide. The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award is administered by the Swedish Arts Council.