

NAXOS  
AudioBooks

# THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN AND OTHER FAVOURITE POEMS

Selected by Jan Fielden and John Mole

Read by **Anton Lesser • Anne Harvey • Katinka Wolf**

JUNIOR  
CLASSICS



NA204512D

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1	EDWARD LEAR The Jumblies*	4:26
2	KATHLEEN RAINE Spell of Creation†	1:25
3	WILLIAM BLAKE The Tyger*	1:02
4	VACHEL LINDSAY The Mysterious Cat†	1:21
5	LEWIS CARROLL The Lobster Quadrille†	1:52
6	ANON The Big Rock Candy Mountain†	1:35
7	VACHEL LINDSAY The Flower-Fed Buffaloes*	0:51
8	H.W. LONGFELLOW Hiawatha†	1:07
9	THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK The War Song of Dinas Vawr*	1:20
10	SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE Kubla Khan*	3:20
11	JOHN MOLE First Love*	0:43
12	WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS The Song of Wandering Aengus*	1:28
13	JOHN DRINKWATER Moonlit Apples†	1:19
14	ALFRED LORD TENNYSON The Lady of Shalott†	8:38
15	KIT WRIGHT Zoe's Ear-rings†	2:08
	ANON	

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16	Queen, Queen Caroline <sup>†</sup>	0:14
17	There was a man who always wove <sup>†</sup> WILLIAM WORDSWORTH	0:16
18	Ice-skating from The Prelude, Book 1* WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE	2:44
19	When Icicles Hang by the Wall <sup>†</sup> ALFRED LORD TENNYSON	0:56
20	The Owl, Song I and II <sup>†</sup> GEORGE MACDONALD	1:24
21	Professor Noctutus* JAMES REEVES	1:44
22	The Bogus-Boo* JOHN MOLE	1:13
23	The Jigsaw Man* OLIVER HERFORD	1:18
24	A Tragedy in Rhyme* THOMAS HARDY	2:25
25	Weathers <sup>†</sup> KENNETH GRAHAME	1:11
26	Duck's Ditty <sup>†</sup> JOHN CLARE	0:37
27	Little Trotty Wagtail <sup>†</sup> WILLIAM COWPER	0:47
28	The Snail <sup>†</sup> ANON	1:05
29	A Guinea-Pig Story <sup>†</sup> THE BOOK OF JOB	0:43
30	The Mighty Horse* HILAIRE BELLOC	0:57
31	Henry King <sup>†</sup>	0:44
32	Matilda <sup>†</sup>	2:59

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33	WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE The Witches: (Macbeth) <sup>† † #</sup>	2:50
	ROBERT HERRICK	
34	The Hag <sup>†</sup>	0:53
	WILLIAM ALLINGHAM	
35	The Witch-Bride <sup>†</sup>	0:48
	ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON	
36	From a Railway Carriage <sup>†</sup>	0:41
	ANON	
37	Dahn the Plug'ole*	1:38
	JOHN KEATS	
38	Meg Merrilies <sup>†</sup>	1:21
	W.H. DAVIES	
39	Leisure <sup>†</sup>	1:21
	LAURENCE BINYON	
40	Hunger <sup>†</sup>	0:41
	EDWARD THOMAS	
41	The Gallows*	1:21
	RUDYARD KIPLING	
42	The Way Through the Woods <sup>†</sup>	0:58
	ANON	
43	Framed in a First-Story Winder*	1:32
	JACKIE KAY	
44	Wish Wish Wish <sup>†</sup>	0:48
	CHARLES CAUSLEY	
45	My Mother Saw a Dancing Bear <sup>†</sup>	0:58
	WALTER DE LA MARE	
46	Nicolas Nye <sup>†</sup>	2:04
	JOHN MASEFIELD	
47	Cargoes*	1:54
	ELEANOR FARJEON	

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48	Don't You Go Too Near the Seat <sup>†</sup>	1:37
	HAROLD MUNRO	
49	Overheard on a Saltmarsh <sup>†</sup>	1:06
	CHRISTINA ROSSETTI	
50	Goblin Market I <sup>†</sup>	1:52
51	Goblin Market II <sup>†</sup>	2:08
	ROBERT BROWNING	
52	Pied Piper of Hamelin*	16:04
	KATHERINE PYLE	
53	The Toys Talk of the World <sup>†</sup>	1:17
	ANON	
54	There was a Man of Double Deed <sup>†</sup>	0:43
55	The Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens*	3:25
	ALFRED LORD TENNYSON	
56	The Charge of the Light Brigade*	2:15
	CHARLES CAUSLEY	
57	Colonel Fazackerley*	2:13
	A.A. MILNE	
58	The King's Breakfast <sup>†</sup>	2:27
	ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON	
59	Windy Nights <sup>†</sup>	46:08
	WALTER DE LA MARE	
60	The Listeners <sup>†</sup>	4:35

**Total time: 1:57:02**

\*Anton Lesser † Anne Harvey ‡ Katinka Wolf # Jan Fielden

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# THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN AND OTHER FAVOURITE POEMS

Selected by Jan Fielden and John Mole

The American poet Robert Frost believed that 'a poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom'. It is in this spirit that this collection has been made, chosen and read for younger listeners.

The first surprise is the sheer range of the poetry. There are rhymes which seem barely to have emerged from the nursery such as A.A. Milne's *The King's Breakfast* and Hilaire Belloc's *Henry King*; yet there are also poems with a structure and content that suggest a more comfortable home in adult anthologies. Coleridge's *Kubla Khan*, for example, with its magical landscape and solemn rhythms, seldom fails to capture the imagination of young listeners. A good poem often communicates before it is understood.

This is the enduring appeal of poetry. Its use of highly vivid images and its rhythmic resilience and variety allow the poet to bring imagination, in its many and unexpected colours, fully to life.

We have included a range of poetry which moves naturally from home base to strange

regions, from the comic and curious to the mysterious and profound. All the poems are particularly suitable for reading aloud, whether they are lyrical, dramatic or – as in several cases such as Kit Wright's *Zoe's Earrings* – simply enjoying the fun of ingenious wordplay.

There are complete stories here – *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*, *The Lady of Shalott* – and humour aplenty, whether it is the music hall mischief of *Dahn the Plug'ole* or the more sinister touches of Binyon's *Hunger*. Hilaire Belloc's *Cautionary Tales: Matilda* and *Henry King* have always been popular, and their sardonic humour prevents them from seeming over-moralistic or dated.

Animals, naturally, figure prominently. We have included some fine examples of animal poems containing vivid observation. The sheer power of William Blake's *The Tyger* evokes awe and wonder (which is why we have decided to place it near the beginning of this selection), but other creatures great and small keep appearing: a mighty horse, a dancing bear, an old donkey, and there are

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even a guinea-pig and a snail.

No anthology of poetry of this kind would be complete without some nonsense verse, so Edward Lear and Lewis Carroll are well-represented. There are also traditional songs such as *The Big Rock Candy Mountain*, and Shakespeare makes his essential appearance with songs from his plays.

We hope that this collection will be used in many situations and on many occasions.

Perhaps in the car on a long journey (several of the poems are about journeys, departures and arrivals), or in the classroom where the teacher may want to concentrate on a particular poem. For this reason, the readers have introduced each poem with its title so that it can be found easily.

Inevitably there will be old favourites that are missing, but maybe our young listeners will be introduced to new poems, a number of them by contemporary poets, which will stay in their memories until they pass them on to another generation.

**Notes by Jan Fielden and John Mole**



**Anton Lesser** is one of Britain's leading classical actors. He has played many of the principal Shakespearean roles for the Royal Shakespeare Company including Petruchio, Romeo and Richard III. His career has also encompassed contemporary drama, notably *The Birthday Party* by Harold Pinter. Appearances in major TV drama productions include *The Oresteia*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *The Mill on the Floss*. Anton Lesser also reads *Paradise Lost*, *Great Expectations*, *Oliver Twist* and Homer's *The Odyssey* for Naxos AudioBooks.



**Anne Harvey** is a poet, anthologist, adjudicator and broadcaster well-known for her poetry readings both on stage and radio. She is the director of Pegasus, the theatre company which tours literature-based programmes and presents a programme based on the works of Christina Rossetti.



**Katinka Wolf** trained at the Drama Studio, London and was part of the Stalhouderij Company, Amsterdam, where she appeared in numerous productions of classical and modern plays. She is a familiar figure in fringe theatre in Britain, has appeared on British TV and is the voice of Anne Frank at the Anne Frank Museum, Amsterdam. Katinka Wolf also reads *Famous People in History* for Naxos AudioBooks.



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## The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

<b>SATIE</b> JE TE VEUX (PIANO WORKS VOL. 3) Klára Körmendi, piano	8.550698
<b>RAVEL</b> MA MÈRE L'OYE Czecho-Slovak RSO/Kenneth Jean	8.550173
<b>DEBUSSY</b> CHILDREN'S CORNER SUITE Idil Biret, piano	8.550885
<b>SAINT-SAENS</b> CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS Czecho-Slovak RSO/Ondrej Lenárd	8.550335
<b>TCHAIKOVSKY</b> ALBUM FOR THE YOUNG 'THE WITCH' Idil Biret, piano	8.550885
<b>RIMSKY-KORSAKOV</b> SHEHERAZADE Philharmonia Orchestra, London/Enriques Bátiz	8.550726

# THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN AND OTHER FAVOURITE POEMS

Selected by Jan Fielden and John Mole

Read by **Anton Lesser • Anne Harvey • Katinka Wolf**

Here are sixty of the finest and most entertaining poems for younger listeners. There are nonsense poems (*The Jumblies*), classic animal poems (*The Snail*), stories of adventure (*The Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens*) and Robert Browning's classic tale of adults getting their comeuppance – *The Pied Piper of Hamelin*. Modern poetry also makes its contribution with wordplay (*Zoe's Ear-rings*) and images of nature (*Weathers*). Though principally aimed at the eight-to thirteen-year-olds, this is a collection to delight listeners, young and old alike.

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Engineer (speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Recordings

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1:57:02