

NAXOS
AudioBooks

J.M. Barrie
PETER PAN

Read by **Samuel West**

**JUNIOR
CLASSICS**



NA210212D

1	Peter Breaks Through	9:44
2	The Shadow	2:22
3	Come Away, Come Away!	20:57
4	The Flight	10:07
5	The Island Come True	12:25
6	The Little House	9:32
7	The Home Under the Ground	2:36
8	The Mermaids' Lagoon	3:38
9	The Mermaids' Lagoon (cont.)	16:08
10	The Never Bird	4:28
11	Wendy's Story	9:36
12	The Children Are Carried Off	3:48
13	Do You Believe in Fairies?	9:06
14	The Pirate Ship	7:29
15	'Hook or Me This Time'	9:17
16	The Return Home	7:08
17	When Wendy Grew Up	12:07

Total time: 2:30:36

J. M. Barrie

PETER PAN

'The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up' has held a particularly tender place in our hearts since he flew in through our window in 1904. Dressed in green, gnashing his pearly-white teeth and scorning all grown-ups, he struck a deep chord in children and the adults (who themselves, alas, could not desist the onset of puberty) that they eventually became.

Little by little, *Peter Pan* was conceived through a series of stories told to the five orphaned boys to whom J.M. Barrie offered his home after the death of their parents, his friends, Arthur and Sylvia Llewelyn Davies. He wrought the material into a play, which was first performed at the Duke of York's Theatre, London in 1904 and which was an overwhelming triumph. Two years later, the story *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* followed and in 1911 Barrie retold the original *Peter Pan* in the form of a short novel (the version which has been used for this audiobook).

James Matthew Barrie, born in 1860, was the ninth of the ten children of a Scottish weaver. He was devoted to his mother who is remembered in his biography

of her, *Margaret Ogilvy* (1896), and their close relationship is believed to be behind his withdrawal from the adult world and the heartfelt references to motherhood and maternal goodness that are so evident in *Peter Pan*. His other works, including the plays *Quality Street* (1901), *The Admirable Crichton* (1902) and *What Every Woman Knows* (1906) were well received at the time but, despite this, his name has become inextricably connected with that of *Peter Pan* alone. Barrie was knighted in 1913. When he died in 1937 he bequeathed all royalties from *Peter Pan* to the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children. A special Act of Parliament then enabled this arrangement to continue even after the work went out of copyright fifty years later.

The story's worldwide popularity is due in part, of course, like Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, to the winning combination of exciting adventure, colourful characters and wicked villains and the fantasy element added by fairies, mermaids and flying. But *Peter Pan's* uniqueness shines through in the passages where Barrie describes a fictional nonsense with such an unpatronising and

detailed authority that children swallow it whole (and even their parents are left wondering...) The *'nightly custom of every good mother after her children are asleep to rummage in their minds and put things straight for next morning'*... Lost shadows needing to be sewn back on to their owners... The children who fall out of their perambulators when the nurse is looking the other way and who are sent far away to the Neverland... – all come across as perfectly logical and credible phenomena.

As well as thrilling children, *Peter Pan* also imparts messages of truth to its adult readers. *Peter Pan* epitomises childhood, he inspires love – thus he can be seen *'in the faces of many women who have no children... and in the faces of some mothers also'*. Many will also agree with Barrie's warning that *'Every child is affected thus [i.e. horrified] the first time he is treated unfairly. After you have been unfair to him ... he will never afterwards be quite the same boy. No one ever gets over the first unfairness...'* In sections like this, a kind of 'aside' to the adult reader, Barrie's words remind us of our own childhood and in doing so prompt us to raise our own children with empathy.

It is almost a hundred years since Peter

Pan entered the world. Who or what is he today? A pantomime character played by young actresses in green tights; a cultural icon; an inspiration and role model to the occasional pop star; the nation's dream-child; a statue in Kensington Gardens; the subject of endless deconstruction and even Freudian analysis... Perhaps we should leave it to Peter himself to answer the question:

'I'm youth, I'm joy,' Peter answered at a venture, 'I'm a little bird that has broken out of the egg.'

Notes by Anna Britten

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS & MARCO POLO Catalogues

DEBUSSY CHILDREN'S CORNER/CLAIR DE LUNE	8.223751
Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Leif Segerstam, conductor	
BRITTEN SIMPLE SYMPHONY	8.550979
Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Richard Studt, conductor	
STRAVINSKY PULCINELLA	8.553181
Bournemouth Sinfonietta, Stefan Sanderling, conductor	
KOECHLIN LE LIVRE DE LA JUNGLE	8.223484
Staatsphilharmonie Rheinland-Pfalz, Leif Segerstam, conductor	

Music programming by Anna Britten, Nicolas Soames and Simon Weir

Cover picture: Peter Pan, from Barrie's Theatre Poster, 1904.
Charles A. Buchel (fl. 1895–1935). Courtesy of R. Mander & J. Mitchenson Theatre
Coll., London/Bridgeman Art Library.

J.M. Barrie
PETER PAN

Read by **Samuel West**

'I'm youth, I'm joy... I'm a little bird that has broken out of the egg.'

The story of the little boy who refused to grow up has captured the imagination of generations of children (and the adults they grew into) since its publication in 1904.

Peter Pan flies in through the bedroom window one night and teaches Wendy, John and Michael to fly. He lures them away from their home and parents and takes them away to endless adventures in the magical Neverland, where they meet the wicked Captain Hook and a host of other characters.

Funny, charming, touching and incisively observant as to the ways of children and adults, *Peter Pan* is an unforgettable story.



Samuel West was widely praised for his performance as Leonard Bast in the Merchant Ivory film, *Howard's End*. Other film credits include *Carrington* and *Reunion*, and he has been seen on TV in *Persuasion* and *Heavy Weather*. Theatrical roles have included Valentine in *Arcadia* and Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He also features on Naxos AudioBooks' *Great Narrative Poems of the Romantic Age*.

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Abrdged by Anna Britten. Produced by Nicolas Soames.
Post-production: Simon Weir, The Classical Recording
Company
Engineer (speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Cassettes

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Total time
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