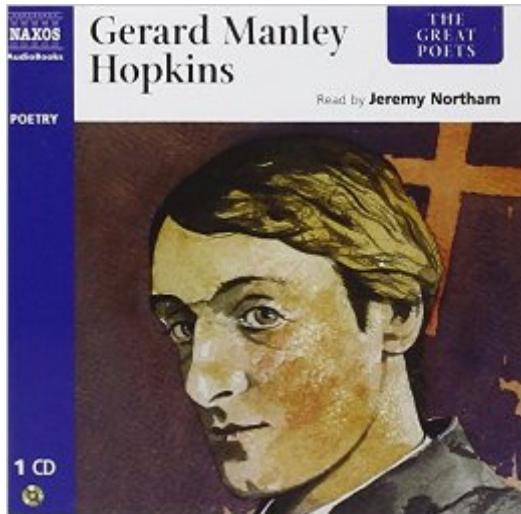


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Great Poets: Hopkins (The Great Poets)



Synopsis

A collection of the best-known poems by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889). One of the Victorian eras greatest writers, Hopkins reputation has continued to grow since his death. Our Great Poets series, launched in 2007, has proven very popular, offering many of the best-loved poems by popular poets in an inexpensive 1 CD collection - and well read by leading actors. This anthology of works by one of poetrys most daring innovators will undoubtedly become a best-seller. The collection includes The Windhover, The Caged Skylark, Carrion Comfort, Spring and Fall and Inversnaid.

Book Information

Series: The Great Poets

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: Naxos AudioBooks; Unabridged edition (September 2, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 962634900X

ISBN-13: 978-9626349007

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.5 x 5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars - See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I am a great admirer of Hopkins and his poetry so the only really important thing to say is that the reader has a beautiful, mellifluous voice and gives all the drama and pathos to the poems that Hopkins would want and which are sadly often left out to the passive reader.

Hands down the best audio recording of Hopkins' poems. The complete poems no less. Jeremy Northam reads these complex poems with a mastery that belies both great love for them but also belies a lot of time spent contemplating them. He was well cast as Thomas More in The Tudors?

Gerard Manley Hopkins was a Jesuit priest who kept thinking and writing poems until he died without his works seeing the light of day in publications. Actor Jeremy Northam does an excellent

job of reading Hopkins, even though this task must not have been easy. The Hopkins poetry sounds as if the author had the advantage of being ignorant of or able to ignore traditional ways of writing poems. This allowed him to invent new rhythms, use repeated lines, introduce line-ending rhyming words that could slip by unnoticed and present an elevated density of thought as if he had an intense case of logorrhea. What did he think about? He used the words "God" and "Christ" about as often as a non-priest might. He focused on almost everything else. He saw nature as a "dappled world," something worth noting by artists and triggering wonder if his thoughts anticipated modern ones that stress the digital character of almost everything around, including ourselves. The original way Hopkins wrote poetry came to the attention of Dylan Thomas and it shows. This is wonderful, challenging poetry, easy to enjoy but difficult to analyze.

Since I am not religious, it has taken me a while to appraise and get into Hopkins poetry. He is quite good, but I am turned off by the religious aspects of his poetry.

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