

The Great Poets

John Masefield

Read by **Ronald Pickup**

John Masefield (1878–1967) was one of the most prolific, popular and successful poets of the twentieth century. Masefield broke upon Edwardian literature with the startling work entitled *The Everlasting Mercy*, which described the spiritual enlightenment of a drunken poacher. Over the span of his lifetime, he was appointed Poet Laureate and amassed a large number of admirers, which included such high-profile names as John Betjeman, Robert Graves and W.B. Yeats.

This collection contains thirty-six poems and spans Masefield's entire career. There are early poems from *Salt-Water Ballads* (1902) and *Ballads* (1903), followed by extracts from the narrative poems *The Everlasting Mercy*, *Dauber* and *Reynard the Fox*. The selection also includes a number of sonnets including 'On Growing Old', as well as his poetry on the Romans, alongside a number of rarities.



Ronald Pickup works extensively in both stage and screen productions. His recent film work includes *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* and *Prince of Persia: Sands of Time*. He has also appeared in the television series *Parade's End*, *Larkrise to Candleford*, *Fortunes of War* and *Orwell on Jura*. His theatre credits include *Heartbreak House*, *Waiting for Godot*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Peer Gynt* and *Long Day's Journey Into Night*.

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POETRY

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