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POETRY

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THE
GREAT
POETS



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The Great Poets Lord Byron

Read by **Simon Russell Beale**

Today Byron is regarded as the ultimate romantic – a rebel, a Casanova and a man of intense, brooding passion. He was the most famous literary man of his time, and his poetry, endlessly witty and often insightful, was immensely popular and hugely influential. From the delicate romanticism of *She Walks in Beauty* to the evocative reflections of *So We'll Go No More a Roving*, Byron's poems were unrivalled in their power and potency. Lesser-known poems such as *Destruction of Sennacherib*, a reimagining of the biblical story of Sennacherib, *Prometheus*, a sardonic poem about the Greek gods, and *Darkness*, an apocalyptic story of the last man on earth, also included here, reveal Byron to be a poet of great range and variety. 'Mad, bad and dangerous to know', Lord Byron was without equal in English literature.



Simon Russell Beale is one of Britain's leading actors. He is an Associate Artist of the National Theatre and RSC, and has played starring roles for both companies, most recently *King Lear* at the National. Other theatre work includes plays at the Donmar and Almeida Theatres, and many West End productions, including *Humble Boy*, *Privates on Parade* and Harold Pinter's *The Hothouse*. For the BBC, he has presented *Sacred Music*, *Symphony* and *Monteverdi in Mantua*, and performed in *Legacy*, *Spooks* and *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*, which won him a BAFTA for Best Supporting Actor. Simon has also filmed two series of *Penny Dreadful* for PD Film Productions. His films include *My Week with Marilyn*, and *The Deep Blue Sea* directed by Terence Davies.

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