

The Great Poets

John Clare

Read by **David Shaw-Parker**

John Clare was the forgotten Romantic poet, until the late twentieth century. Known by his contemporaries as the 'Peasant Poet' he recorded in his poems the natural landscape of rural England before the Industrial Revolution. His poems rival Wordsworth's for their sensitivity to nature and pantheism: 'I feel a beautiful providence ever about me,' Clare wrote. But his life was a long struggle against poverty and mental collapse. Some of his finest poems were written in the local asylum.



David Shaw-Parker trained at RADA and began his career with the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1977. His recent theatre appearances include *My Fair Lady*, *The False Servant* and *Oedipus Rex* at The Royal National Theatre, and *The Country Wife*, *Acorn Antiques*, *Heavenly Ivy* and *Uncle Vanya* in London's West End. He has recorded extensively for BBC radio and his previous recordings for Naxos AudioBooks include Plato's *Symposium* and *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.

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