

Friedrich Nietzsche

THE BIRTH OF TRAGEDY

A new translation by Ian Johnston

Read by **Duncan Steen**

Friedrich Nietzsche's *The Birth of Tragedy out of the Spirit of Music* was published in 1872. In 1869, at the age of 24, he had been appointed a professor of classical philology at the University of Basel, a remarkable position for one of his age, and the book was his first significant publication. It did little, however, to help his reputation as a scholar; his views were controversial and aroused strong criticism in some quarters, while his deliberate espousal of the cause of the composer Richard Wagner was, to say the least, unhelpful. Nietzsche later revised his views on Wagner and re-issued *The Birth of Tragedy* in 1886 under the title *The Birth of Tragedy, or Hellenism and Pessimism*, introducing it with *An Attempt at a Self-Criticism*. The present reading includes this last, his 1871 *Preface to Richard Wagner* and the original book itself, with its famous discussion of the Apollonian and Dionysian in Greek tragedy.



Duncan Steen was born in Bedford, England. He has written *Meditation – The Buddhist Way, The Middle Way – The Story of Buddhism* and *Karma and Rebirth – In a Nutshell* for Naxos AudioBooks. He has taught meditation and Buddhism since 1987 and has been the Chairman of the West London Buddhist Centre since 2005.

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