



Harmonium Poems by Wallace Stevens

By Wallace Stevens (1879 - 1955)

Read by: Kevin S, Nemo, and Eva Davis. Language: English
 Length: 1 hours 55 minutes Style: Solo
 Genre: Poetry

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-7014	0602581788508	\$9.99
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Published in 1923, “Harmonium” by Wallace Stevens is a groundbreaking collection of poems that marked the poet’s debut in the literary world. The collection is celebrated for its innovative use of language, vivid imagery, and philosophical exploration of human experience. Stevens’s poetry in “Harmonium” is characterized by its dense and complex language, often challenging readers to engage with abstract ideas and concepts. The collection is divided into two sections, with the first featuring poems that are more imagistic and reflective of nature, while the second delves into more philosophical and existential themes.

One of the central motifs in “Harmonium” is the idea of the imagination as a transformative force, capable of re-shaping reality and providing meaning to the world. Stevens explores the tension between the external world and the internal, subjective realm of the mind, questioning the nature of reality and the role of the artist in shaping perception. The title poem, “Harmonium,” exemplifies Stevens’s interest in the interplay of imagination and reality. The harmonium, a musical instrument, becomes a metaphor for the poet’s creative process, where the poet, like a musician, plays with words and ideas to create a harmonious and meaningful composition.

Wallace Stevens (October 2, 1879 – August 2, 1955) was born into a prosperous family in Reading, Pennsylvania, attended Harvard and then graduated from the New York Law School in 1903. He married Elsie Katchel in 1909 after a long courtship against the objections of his family, which resulted in a permanent estrangement from his father. A bust of Elsie by their landlord, sculptor Adolph Einman, became the model for the Mercury dime and perhaps the Walking Liberty Half Dollar. He practiced law at various firms before working as corporate counsel for insurance companies, eventually joining the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company as vice-president in 1916, where he worked for the rest of his life. Few people at the company knew of his world-wide reputation as a poet. In 1922 Stevens visited Key West on business and found a paradise to which he would return regularly and that served as an important influence in his later work. He reportedly argued with Robert Frost on two occasions at the Casa Marina and was knocked into the street by Ernest Hemingway in 1936 after picking a fight with him at a party. Stevens increasingly came to be seen as a key figure in 20th century poetry and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1955. He continues to be an important influence on modern artists and writers.