



The Wild Swans at Coole

By William Butler Yeats (1865 - 1939)

Read by:	Peter Tucker	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	1 hours 12 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1236
Language:	English	UPC:	0701236969559
Style:	Solo reading	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Poetry		

The Wild Swans at Coole is a lyric poem by W. B. Yeats as well as the title of two collections of his poems published in 1917 and 1919. Coole refers to the Galway home of his friend and colleague Lady Gregory. The collection is dedicated to the memory of her son Major Robert Gregory, an airman who lost his life to friendly fire in World War I. The initial release of the collection contained 19 poems and a play. The second edition published in London and New York by Macmillan dropped the play and grew to include 40 poems. Written during his mid-fifties, the title poem wrestles with the melancholy of encroaching age, romantic rejections, and the ongoing tensions of both Irish and European political conflicts. The larger collection iterates

themes of Irish Nationalism and the establishment of a distinct Irish literary voice and aesthetic. Notable poems in the collection include “The Wild Swans at Coole,” “An Irish Airman Foresees his Death,” and “On being asked for a War Poem”.

William Butler Yeats (June 13, 1865 – January 28, 1939) was an Irish poet and a leading figure in 20th century literature. He was born in County Dublin into a well-to-do and artistic family: his father abandoned law to study art, his mother came from a wealthy merchant family. The family settled in Sligo by the sea when Yeats was an infant. The young William studied poetry from an early age, with a fascination for Irish legends and occult subjects, which, along with Spenser, Shelley and the Pre-Raphaelites, influenced his early work. His work became more concrete and realistic over time but maintained a connection with the mystical throughout. He wrote in 1892 that “the mystical life is the centre of all that I do and all that I think and all that I write.” He is known for his long and difficult relationship with Irish heiress and Nationalist Maud Gonne, and for his friendship with Lady Gregory, an Irish dramatist and folklorist with whom he co-founded the Irish Literary Theatre and the Abbey Theatre and established the “Irish Literary Revival” movement. He married 25-year old Georgie Hyde-Lees happily at age 51 and fathered two children. His support of the Irish Nationalist movement led to his appointment as a Senator to the Irish Free State in 1922 and again in 1925. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923.