



## Lyrical Ballads, With A Few Other Poems (1798)

By William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	2 hours 4 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1238
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Style:	Solo reading	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Poetry		

*Lyrical Ballads, with a Few Other Poems* is a landmark collection of poems by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge published in 1798 that marked the beginning of the Romantic Movement in English literature. The authors sought to find a voice rooted in the simple, everyday language and experience of the common man and by doing so upend the stilted, studied and highly structured forms of 18th century English poetry. Their intent is reflected in the title: “lyrical” refers to the tradition of the rustic bard, and “ballads” is the term for folk songs that convey stories in the oral tradition. The departure from tradition is reflected in the subject matter as well, with its focus on simple, unlettered country people closer to the original state of

nature and, by implication, a more pure and innocent existence as propounded by Rousseau. The initial 1798 edition contained 24 poems, 4 by Coleridge and 20 by Wordsworth, and an “Advertisement” setting out the poetical concept. A second edition in 1800 contained a preface and assembled the original poems less “The Convict” in Volume I and added a Volume II consisting of an additional 38 poems by Wordsworth.

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge** (October 21, 1772 – July 25, 1834) was an English poet, critic, and philosopher who helped found the Romantic Movement in England with William Wordsworth. His best known works are the poems “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” and “Kubla Khan”, the literary autobiography *Biographia Literaria*, and his influential critical work on Shakespeare. His contemporaries admired his meticulous craftsmanship and depended on his professional insights and advice as both poet and critic. Some believe he may well have originated notion of using common vernacular for poetic imagery and idea central to the Romantic Movement. Although his output was relatively small, he is considered one of the most important figures in English literature.

**William Wordsworth** (April 7, 1770 – April 23, 1850) was an English Romantic poet who helped found the English Romantic Movement with Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He was born in Cumberland in the Lake District of northwest England, roots that figure deeply in his work. He was sent to school in Lancashire at age 8 after the death of his mother and then to Cambridge at age 17. His lifelong friendship with Coleridge began in 1795 and bore fruit with the groundbreaking *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798. *Poems in Two Volumes* appeared in 1807. He labored for fifty years without finishing a long three-part philosophical poem generally known as “the poem to Coleridge”. The second section, *The Excursion*, and a Prospectus to the work were published in 1814. The first section was published posthumously as *The Prelude* and is considered his masterpiece. He was made Poet Laureate in 1843 and served until his death in 1850.