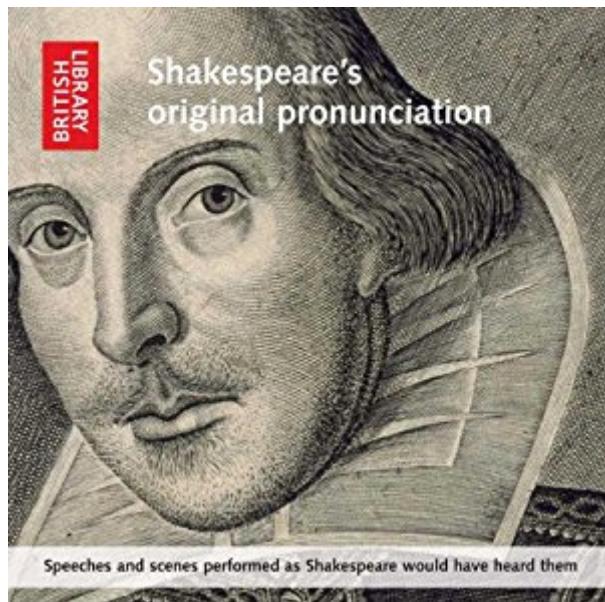


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# Shakespeare's Original Pronunciation: Speeches And Scenes Performed As Shakespeare Would Have Heard Them



## Synopsis

How did Shakespeare sound to the audiences of his day? For the first time, this audio offers listeners the chance to hear England's greatest playwright performed by a company of actors using the pronunciation of his time. Under the guidance of Ben Crystal, actor, author of *Shakespeare on Toast*, and an expert in original Shakespearian pronunciation, the company performs some of Shakespeare's best-known poems, solo speeches, and scenes from the plays. Hear new meanings uncovered, new jokes revealed, poetic effects enhanced. An essential purchase for every student and lover of Shakespeare.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 1 hour and 15 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Original recording

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## Customer Reviews

Beautiful. My only complaint is that it is not longer. Why not whole plays?

I am not sure why this, an audio CD of Shakespeare is being reviewed as a fictional book. I have taught Romeo and Juliet for over a decade and we have often had discussions about the words and how they flow together. I was looking for a recording of Original pronunciation of Act 1's Prologue, but alas. It was not on here. For a true lover of etymology, it is a worthwhile purchase.

Not alot on here, but love the original pronunciation.

Having worked with Ben Crystal on his original pronunciation production of Hamlet, and with his father, David Crystal, on our OP production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the University of

Kansas, I was pretty sure this was going to be good. Ben and company exceeded expectations! Anyone interested in dialects, Shakespeare, and Early Modern English will simply HAVE to have this CD. Paul Meier Author of *Accents and Dialects for Stage and Screen* (includes 12 CDs)

I bought this for my granddaughter, a theater major specializing in Shakespeare. She not only found it extremely valuable but is sharing it with other theater majors. I admit to listening to it first, because as a poet I am very interested in sounds of language and how they affect the experience of a poem. Thank you for bringing this important CD to my attention!

It is great to hear these texts. It makes them easier to understand and more fun to listen to. My only complaint is that I want more, and there isn't more.

We discover the visceral intensity and liveliness of Shakespeare's original pronunciation. Instead of the highly refined spoken language we're used to when listening to a production of Shakespeare, this recording allows us to experience the passionate, embodied and often guttural sounds of Elizabethan England. Puns and double meanings come alive! We experience Shakespeare anew as we hear the full-bodied force of these spoken words.

This attempt to recapture the sound of Shakespeare's original English was enjoyable and interesting. The selections include the familiar and some less so. They are a delight to listen to, but one wonders how reliable the accents are, and surely London of the Bard's day had a variety of accent as foreigners and bumpkins from all over congregated not only to hear, but also to act, the plays.

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