



Petrarch's Canzoniere: Scattered Rhymes

Francesco Petrarch (trans. Peter Thornton)

JAN 10TH 2023 | PAPERBACK | 360 PAGES

PRICE: £20 / \$30 | ISBN: 9781909954335

GENRE: MEDIEVAL POETRY IN TRANSLATION

Also available in eBook and Audiobook

PETRARCH FOR THE MODERN EAR, by the translator of a Dante edition that 'ranks with the very best available in English'.

Francesco Petrarch's *Canzoniere* (translated in English as 'Scattered Rhymes') is a collection of 14th century poems famed for their exploration of love, grief, spirituality and nature. Peter Thornton's accessible new translation brings Petrarch to the 21st century in direct, rhymed, English verse - for academics and poetry enthusiasts alike.

Written over the course of forty years (approximately between 1328-1368), Petrarch's various poems often come back to Laura. He adores her in life and after her early death. His *Canzoniere* also serves as a valuable contemporary insight into 14th century religion and Christendom. Petrarch's work is one of civilization's most immaculate achievements. Peter Thornton provides non-intrusive, insightful commentary and guidance through the text.

Key Features

- A classic of world literature, brought to the 21st century in direct, rhymed, English verse.
- Guides the reader with scholarly notes.
- Completes the life work of Peter Thornton, whose translation of Dante's *Inferno* "immediately joins ranks with the very best available in English" (Richard Lansing).
- The complete poetry sequence, including all of Petrarch's love poems to Laura, one of civilization's founding achievements, opening out into spirituality and nature and refining the sonnet form.

About the Translator (Peter Thornton)

The late Peter Thornton was a supreme 21st century example of a being from earlier centuries: a gentleman scholar. He gained a PhD on Milton's *Paradise Lost* and was a professor of English. Leading Dante scholars poured praise on his translation of Dante's *Inferno* – which "immediately joins ranks with the very best available in English" (Richard Lansing). Peter then took on the challenge of presenting Petrarch in English for the modern ear. Battling cancer, he stayed sublimely happy, his last days being in editorial meetings adding the final refinements to this delicious text. It stands as a crowning achievement to a remarkable life.



About the Author

A poet laureate of Rome, many claim Petrarch's work as kickstarting the Renaissance. Much of his writing was in Latin, but his sequence of poems in the vernacular, triggered by the sight of a young woman named Laura, became a foundation of modern Italian. Laura did not return the poet's love, but Petrarch stayed true even after Laura's early death. Laura inspired the 366 poems that make up this world classic, *Canzoniere*. Petrarch died in his seventies in 1374, and was writing and revising his sonnets into his last years.

