

NAXOS
AudioBooks

**CLASSIC
FICTION**

**MODERN
CLASSICS**

James Joyce
**A Portrait of The Artist
as a Young Man**

Read by **Jim Norton**



NA307012D

1	Chapter 1	2:56
2	Clongowes Wood College; football and words:	9:22
3	Sick from the square ditch: to the infirmary	10:28
4	Christmas dinner at home; a row over politics	10:48
5	A famous spit; dinner ends with tears	7:16
6	Clonglowes in Summer; cricket and Latin Lessons	3:53
7	The prefect of studies;	8:38
8	To the Rector to protest; justice is done	6:44
9	Chapter 2	9:08
10	A place secured at Belvedere College	5:30
11	A trip to Cork; a pretty old air; <i>foetus</i>	7:16
12	Father's reminiscences; Stephen's detachment	10:22
13	A brief period of affluence; surrender to sin	9:35
14	Chapter 3	6:09
15	Retreat; the sermon begins	6:25
16	Death and judgement	5:29

17	The awful properties of hell	14:01
18	Visions of torment lead to repentance	6:47
19	Church Street chapel; confession at last	12:56
20	Chapter 4	10:53
21	A girl alone in midstream; he greets life;	6:47
22	Chapter 5	6:44
23	Davin's story; a woman at the door	4:25
24	The Dean of Studies; funnel or tundish?	8:43
25	Birds soaring free above the university library	6:37
26	Discussion with Cranley; mothers and religion	11:34
27	Freedom; Stephen will go away	8:17
28	Diary entries; nothing to stay for; Away!	11:58

Total time: 3:50:08

James Joyce

A Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man

‘Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met aicens little boy named baby tuckoo...’

So begins the first great novel by one of the twentieth-century’s most innovative writers. Here, in the opening pages of *A Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man*, Joyce recreates not merely the memories of childhood but the language, sounds and sensations of childhood too. He recreates them rather than describes them, and the reader is immediately drawn into the half-remembered world of infancy by the rhythm and flavour of Joyce’s poetic prose. The childhood remembered is that of Joyce himself (though for the purposes of the novel he has another name: Stephen Dedalus), and the incidents recalled are all incidents from Joyce’s own early days growing up in Ireland at the end of the last century. The biography is in many ways unremarkable – a school life, family background, growing political and religious

awareness and transition to manhood undoubtedly shared by Joyce with countless other young Irishmen. What makes this biography so special is that its protagonist is clearly not unremarkable, and that his perception and analysis of events and people around him mark him out from others. His description of a Christmas dinner which turns into a rowdy political argument about the role of the church in the downfall of the nationalist leader Parnell, is more than a vivid memory for Joyce. It marks the beginning of his own awareness of the meaning of betrayal. And when at school he suffers the indignity and pain of a wrongful thrashing, his success in demanding justice gives him his first lesson in self-confidence and his first taste for heroism.

With the second chapter of the book Stephen begins his long journey to independence. On his journey to Cork with his father he senses already that his father’s world is one he cannot share. Here, Joyce introduces the first startling moment of realisation, an epiphany of sorts, when

Stephen observes the word *foetus* carved into a desk at his father's old college. The word both revolts him and reminds him of his own need to grow from his embryonic and vulgar state, returning to his mind for several hours afterwards. Soon after this, a further significant step towards manhood is encountered in the dark streets of the brothel area, and Stephen begins a swift descent into inner turmoil, made more unbearable by the vivid imagery of a sermon on Hell delivered to pupils during a weekend retreat at his school. 'Every word of it was for him. Against his sin, foul and secret, the whole wrath of God was aimed.' Shocked into repentance, Stephen makes confession and adopts a more sober way of life, even being offered the opportunity to put himself forward for training to the priesthood. The realisation that such a life is not for him, however, is most vividly conveyed when he experiences another 'epiphany' in the form of a girl standing in the shallows gazing out to sea. The magic of this moment and the meeting of their eyes, triggers the start of the final phase of Stephen's journey to freedom. In the final chapter, the confident young university student grapples with matters of language and aesthetics. In a delightful scene with the Dean of Studies, the use of the word

'funnel' rather than the Irish word 'tundish' reminds Stephen that for him the English language is 'an acquired speech. I have not made or accepted its words.'

Here, finally, is Stephen/Joyce, the artist who is about to leave Ireland forever, to continue to grapple with and force into submission the words of the English language, and with them to paint the Ireland of his youth for the enlightenment of readers in all parts of the world. For Stephen, like the Daedalus of mythology, is to soar high above ordinary folk, above matters of race or religion, and ultimately above art.

Notes by Roger Marsh

The music on this recording is taken from the NAXOS catalogue

MEDIEVAL CAROLS	8.550751
Oxford Camerata/Jeremy Summerly	
WAGNER THE FLYING DUTCHMAN	8.660025–26
Alfred Muff/Ingrid Haubold/Peter Seiffert/ Erich Knodt/ Jörg Hering/Marga Schiml/ORF Symphony Orchestra/Pinchas Steinberg	
SIEGFRIED IDYLL (FROM ORCHESTRAL HIGHLIGHTS)	8.550498
Polish NRSO / Johannes Wildner	
GRAINGER MOLLY ON THE SHORE	8.557876
Takako Nishizaki/Wolf Harden	
BERLIOZ SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE	8.550093
Czecho–Slovak RSO / Pinchas Steinberg	
BARANOWSKA THE MAIDEN'S PRAYER OP. 4	8.550646
Péter Nagy, piano	
TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC ESPECIALLY RECORDED FOR A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN BY:	
Gill Pearson, Fiddle	
Kate Pearson, Whistle	
Nick Fells, Recording Engineer	

Cover picture: A winter morning on O'Connell Street, Dublin (1930).
Courtesy of the Mary Evans Picture Library, London.



James Joyce pictured aged 22 in 1904.

James Joyce

A Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man

Read by **Jim Norton**

In *A Portrait of The Artist as a Young Man*, Joyce describes the early life of Stephen Dedalus: significant memories from infancy, schooldays, family life, his first taste of sin, guilt, repentance – and his passage to freedom as he elects to leave Ireland for ever. This is, in effect, an autobiography. Stephen is Joyce; every person he encounters and every incident he experiences, is drawn from life. The writing, though, displays the colour and imagination of the very finest fiction, in language which cries out to be read aloud.



Jim Norton spent his early years with RTE in his native Dublin. He now divides his time between London and Hollywood, taking leading roles in theatre, TV and radio. His film credits include *Hidden Agenda*, *Into the West* and *Straw Dogs*. He also reads *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and *Ulysses* for Naxos AudioBooks.

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