

## The Collected Poems of Bertolt Brecht

Bertolt Brecht Translated and Edited by David Constantine and Tom Kuhn

One of the most important poetry publications in years, the *Collected Poems of Bertolt Brecht* finally appears in English for the first time.

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Widely celebrated as the greatest German playwright of the twentieth century, Bertolt Brecht was also, as George Steiner observed, "that very rare phenomenon, a great poet, for whom poetry is an almost everyday visitation and drawing of breath". Hugely prolific, Brecht wrote some 2,000 poems and songs—though fewer than half were published in his lifetime, and early editions were extremely selective. Now, award-winning translators David Constantine and Tom Kuhn give us the most comprehensive English collection of Brecht's poetry to date. Written between 1913 and 1956, these poems celebrate Brecht's unquenchable "love of life, the desire for better and more of it", and reflect the technical virtuosity of an artist driven by bitter and violent politics, as well as by the untrammelled forces of love and erotic desire. A monumental achievement and a reclamation, *The Collected Poems of Bertolt Brecht* is a must-have for any lover of twentieth-century poetry.

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**BERTOLT BRECHT** (1898–1956) was a German poet, playwright and theatre director. In those capacities, and also as a polemical essayist, he contributed powerfully to the literary and political debates of his day, and lastingly influenced theatrical theory and practice.

**DAVID CONSTANTINE** is a freelance writer and translator. His fourth collection of short stories, *Tea at the Midland*, won the Frank O' Connor International Short Story Award in 2013.

**TOM KUHN** teaches at the University of Oxford, where he is a Fellow of St Hugh's College. He works on twentieth-century drama and German exile literature and has been, since 1996, editor of the main English-language Brecht edition.

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