

Shakespeare's Meaning, Motivation, and Message

Concord Shakespeare Festival Conference

May 30 - June 1, 2008

Give us leave, I pray... We have some secrets to confer about.
--Duke of Milan, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*

FRIDAY EVENING: Concord Free Public Library

7:00 – 9:00: Opening Presentations & Performance: *Secrets and Genius -- Mozart and Shakespeare*, Concord Free Public Library.

Order and Chaos in Shakespeare and Mozart: The Revelation of an Inner Landscape.
Roderick Phipps-Kettlewell, Concert Pianist & Lecturer

I believe there is a relationship between the outer form and structure of a work to be performed and its effect on the listener/audience's inner condition – peace or turmoil and a range in between. A comparison could be made, using examples from both of these creative geniuses, of how this process extends the insight into our common inner experiences: a landscape that is revealed by their transcendent art.

Shakespeare's Secrets: How *Twelfth Night* Reads Like An Elizabethan Courtly Gossip Sheet
Mark Anderson, Author, "Shakespeare by Another Name"

Following a music-oriented presentation, it is perhaps appropriate that we delve into a play that begins with the immortal words, *If music be the food of love, play on*. The story *Twelfth Night* tells, however, is not just idle musings. In fact, a new layer of meaning will be uncovered that dates an antecedent of this beloved Shakespeare comedy to the pre-Shakespearean date c. 1580. The Elizabethan court from this time -- and European geopolitics in the early 1580s -- are indeed a crucial but largely unappreciated subtext for the goings on at the court of the great and much-admired Olivia.

SATURDAY Masonic Temple

*I know you two are rival enemies. How comes this gentle concord in the world?
... Away with us to Athens. Three and three. We'll hold a feast in great solemnity*
-- Theseus, *Midsummer Night's Dream*

9:00 – 9:30: Introduction to the Authorship Issue, A Brief "User's Guide"
Mark Anderson, author, "Shakespeare" by Another Name

9:30-10:30: Interpreting Shakespeare, Presentations & Performances
Alex McNeil, President, The Shakespeare Fellowship

The relationship between Touchstone, Audrey, and William in Act V, Scene 1 of *As You Like It*, as seen from an Orthodox and Oxfordian perspective. This short three-character scene has nothing to do with advancing the plot of Shakespeare's pastoral comedy. Why would an experienced dramatist choose to insert it? Is it, as most orthodox scholars conclude, simply a comic interlude in which the fool Touchstone lords it over the country bumpkin William? Or is it, as Oxfordians contend, a dialogue of sorts between the real author and his front man?

10:30 – 11:00: *Break - coffee and tea will be served downstairs in the Masonic Temple dining hall*

11:00-12:00: Interpreting Shakespeare, Presentations & Performances II
Dennis Taylor, Professor of English, Boston College; Editor, Religion and the Arts

The Winter's Tale as Miracle Play: Catholic, Protestant, and Secular Food for Thought (Act 5, concluding scene 3).

12:00 – 2:00: *Lunch break*

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

*Speak the speech, I pray you, as I pronounc'd it to you,
trippingly on the tongue. -- Hamlet*

2:00 – 3:30: An Encounter between Sensibilities: Elizabethan and Twentieth-Century Attitudes toward the Spiritual in Nature in *The Tempest* and Rudolf Steiner's *The Portal of Initiation*.
Douglas Reed, pianist and conductor for the musical theater; John Stirling Walker, poet/librettist; David Conte, composer.

Scenes will be presented from both works to illuminate a certain quality of consciousness in the West and its historical transformation, providing a context for conversational inquiry into the questions the encounter between these two sensibilities can raise.

3:30-4:00: *Break - coffee and tea will be served downstairs in the Masonic Temple dining hall*

4:00-5:00: Screening Shakespeare
Cheryl Eagan-Donovan, Filmmaker

An overview of Shakespeare as seen on screen throughout the last century. The presentation will look at the ways in which the various interpretations of the works on screen reflect the meaning, motivation, and message of the author.

5:00-7:00: *Dinner - please see our dining page for local restaurants*

7:00 – 10:00: Evening Fest: Music, Merriment, Verse & Good Spirits

Friends and lovers of Shakespeare are invited to step up and present their favorite sonnets, speeches from the plays, and related gems in celebration of the Bard.

SUNDAY

Masonic Temple

*Let the reason serve to make the truth appear,
where it seems hid, And hide the false seems true*

-- Isabella, *Measure for Measure*

10:00 – 10:30: Coffee and tea will be served downstairs in the Masonic Temple dining hall

10:30 – 12:00: Personal Shakespeares
Sarah Smith, novelist; Gerit Quealy, actor and journalist

What does Shakespeare mean to you? Is your idea of Shakespeare different than when you first began to read him? How has it changed, and why? Actor and journalist Gerit Quealy and novelist Sarah Smith share their personal journeys. Come and talk about yours.

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch will be served downstairs in the Masonic Temple dining hall

1:00 - 2:00 *King John*
Benjamin Evett, Founder, and Artistic director, Actors' Shakespeare Project

Ben Evett will be directing the Actors' Shakespeare Project's production of *King John*, and will speak about his interpretation of this rarely performed Shakespeare play.

2:00 - 2:15 Break - coffee and tea will be served downstairs in the Masonic Temple dining hall

2:15 - 3:30 The Role of Ross in *Macbeth* Reveals a Courtier's Hand
Richard Whalen, Author, Shakespeare: Who Was He? The Oxford Challenge to the Bard of Avon

The significance of the role of the Thane of Ross in this play is often overlooked. Through performance, actors will reveal the significance of this character in *Macbeth*.

End of our program

5:30 p.m. *King John* performance in Boston.
Please purchase tickets through the Actors' Shakespeare Project.

Those who wish to see *King John* this weekend may purchase tickets through the Actors' Shakespeare Project to the 5:30 p.m. performance at the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul located on Tremont Street in Boston, near the Park Street Subway Station.

*Then to the elements be free, and fare thou well! –
Please you draw near.
-- Prospero, The Tempest*

Please note: To protect the historic furnishings of the Masonic Temple, food and beverages, except water, are not permitted in the Masonic Temple's meeting space.