

Roger McGough

Poet / Author / Performer

Roger McGough *CBE FRSL*



Born in Liverpool, Roger McGough is the author of over a hundred books of poetry for both adults and children as well as editing numerous anthologies.

During the sixties he was part of The Scaffold, whose song 'Lily the Pink' was a hit worldwide, and the ground-breaking collection '*The Mersey Sound*' (with Brian Patten and the late Adrian Henri) which has sold over one million copies, has been republished in the Penguin Modern Classic series. The winner of two Baftas for his film work and a Royal Television Society award, he helped write the script for *The Yellow Submarine* animation film.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, he is an Honorary Professor of Thames Valley University, and a Fellow of John Moores University, Liverpool. He has been awarded D.Litts from the universities of Hull, Liverpool, Nottingham, Roehampton and the Open University.

He was made a Freeman of the City of Liverpool in 2001, and received a CBE from the Queen in 2004 for services to literature. He is President of the Poetry Society and currently presents Poetry Please on BBC Radio 4.

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Publications

Poetry

| Publication Details | Notes |
|---------------------|-------|
|---------------------|-------|

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

2021

Viking

This is due for release on the 11th November 2021

'This is not the time for adultery.

Your lover will fail to be impressed,
not so much by the face mask
and stale musk of sanitizing gel,
but your flouting of the rules.'

At once funny and moving, Safety in Numbers is the new collection from the nation's favourite poet. Traversing new yet timeless terrain with his signature wit and intimacy, Roger McGough brings to life the very strangeness of our times

From lost tongues and violins to rising oceans, from adulterers in lockdown to ghosts in line, we may live in dark times and yet find ourselves laughing. From surprising angles and with unexpected voices, McGough, 'a trickster you can trust', reveals the telling moments of our lives.

PRAISE FOR ROGER MCGOUGH

'A witty and ingenious chronicler of British life with a deftness and agility that is hard to beat' Poetry Society

'The patron saint of poetry' Carol Ann Duffy

'McGough has done for poetry what champagne does for weddings' Time Out

JOINEDUPWRITING

2019

Penguin

For more than fifty years, Roger McGough has entranced generations of readers with poetry which is at once playful and poignant, intimate and ambitious in its scope. Joinedupwriting delivers on all the wry observation, warmth and subtle heartache that readers have come to expect from his collections.

From forgotten friendships to the idiosyncrasies of family life, to the trauma of war right through to contemporary global politics - these poems explore the human experience in all its shades of light and dark, but always with McGough's signature wit, irreverence and vivacity. This is the nation's favourite poet at his very finest.

'The patron saint of poetry' Carol Ann Duffy

IT NEVER RAINS

2014

PENGUIN

It Never Rains by Roger McGough - an expanded edition of comic verse and free line drawings, from the nation's favourite poet.

'Oxford Blues' is one of the many new poems in this expanded and revised edition of The State of Poetry, Roger McGough's book of short humorous verse which was published in 2005 as part of Penguin's 70s series celebrating its 70th anniversary. From a poem commissioned to commemorate Dylan Thomas in just 140 characters, which unfortunately comes to an end mid-word, to a pre-emptive erratum notice, these poems show McGough at his inventive, hilarious best - and there are also new line drawings by the author offered at no extra cost.

AS FAR AS I KNOW

2013

PENGUIN

Roger McGough's new book of poems shows him writing as fluently and inventively as ever. There may be a stronger strain of melancholy than before (the death of a regular in the local pub; the news that a daughter might be moving abroad), as well as a distinct sense of menace, small but insistent, which inhabits many of the poems. But there is plenty of McGough's characteristic wit and wordplay too, including a scintillating series of haiku inspired by a London tube strike and a striking reworking of his famous 1960s poem 'Let Me Die a Youngman's Death', this time entitled 'Not For Me a Youngman's Death'. Who but McGough would characterize the butcher's window as 'the friendly face of the abattoir', or imagine the almost limitless ways in which we might go to bed?

A new book of poems by Roger McGough is always an event. Published just ahead of his 75th birthday, As Far As I Know is truly cause for celebration.

THAT AWKWARD AGE

2009

Penguin

THE MERSEY SOUND

2007

Penguin

First published in 1967, The Mersey Sound has sold over half a million copies, making it the bestselling poetry anthology of all time.

SELECTED POEMS

2006

Penguin

**THE COLLECTED
POEMS**

2003

Penguin

Collected for the first time in one volume, McGough's poems remain as potent as they ever were.

EVERYDAY ECLIPSES

2002

Viking (Penguin)

THE WAY THINGS ARE

1999

Penguin

DEFYING GRAVITY

1993

Penguin

**YOU AT THE BACK:
SELECTED POEMS****1967-1987**

1992

Cape

SELECTED POEMS**1967-1987**

1989

Cape

WORRY

1987

Toni Savage

**MELTING INTO THE
FOREGROUND**

1986

Viking

WAVING AT TRAINS

1982

Cape

**HOLIDAY ON DEATH
ROW**

1979

Cape

**SUMMER WITH
MONIKA**

Republished Penguin 2017

1978

Whizzard Press

IN THE GLASSROOM

1976

Cape

GIG

1973

Cape

OUT OF SEQUENCE

1972

Turret Books

**AFTER THE
MERRYMAKING**

1970

Cape

WATCHWORDS

1968

Cape

Children's

| Publication Details | Notes |
|---------------------|-------|
|---------------------|-------|

HAPPY POEMS

2018

Macmillan Children's
Books

Poems to make you smile! Critically acclaimed poet Roger McGough has drawn together a fantastic collection of upbeat poems to bring happiness into your day with this uplifting collection Happy Poems. He reminds us that happiness can be found all around us in the everyday, in family, in books in nature and, of course, in our pets! Includes gems from the very best classic and contemporary poets, such as John Agard, Adrian Henri, Brian Patten, Carol Ann Duffy, Joseph Coelho, William Wordsworth and William Blake.

SLAPSTICK

2008

Puffin

**THE MONSTERS'
GUIDE TO
CHOOSING A PET**

2005

Puffin

DOTTY INVENTIONS

2005

Frances Lincoln

ALL THE BEST

2004

Puffin

THE BEE'S KNEES

2003

Puffin

**WHAT ON EARTH
CAN IT BE?**

2003

Viking (Penguin)

MOONTHIEF

2002

Kingfisher

**GOOD ENOUGH TO
EAT**

2002

Puffin

BAD BAD CATS

1997

Penguin

PILLOW TALK

1992

Non-Fiction**Publication Details****Notes**

SAID AND DONE

2005

Random House

Other

| Publication Details | Notes |
|---|---|
| THE HYPOCHONDRIAC (Moliere) 2009 Methuen Drama | New adaptation of Moliere's THE HYPOCHONDRIAC |
| TARTUFFE (Moliere) 2008 Methuen | New adaptation of TARTUFFE by Moliere |