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217 Records

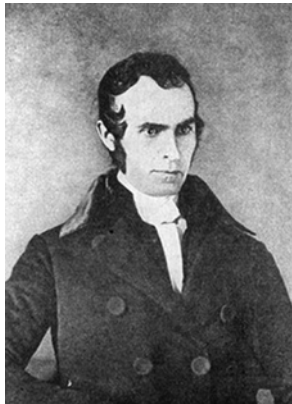
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Live Reading of the Poem “Snow-Bound” Commemorates the Bicentennial of the Birth of John Greenleaf Whittier: *217 Records Releases Two CD Recordings of Whittier’s Work*

AMESBURY, MASSACHUSETTS (January 5, 2007) – A live reading of American poet John Greenleaf Whittier’s masterwork “Snow-Bound” will be held at the Amesbury Middle School Auditorium on Thursday, February 15 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. This reading is free and open to the public.

“Snow-Bound” will be read by Michael Maglaras. Maglaras is a recording artist, musician, and film maker who has devoted the last two years of his life to the study and recording of the works of this New England master with one goal in mind: to reintroduce Whittier to a new, wider audience and promote the rediscovery of his work.



John Greenleaf Whittier.
Collection Smithsonian Institutions.



Michael Maglaras, founder 217 Records.

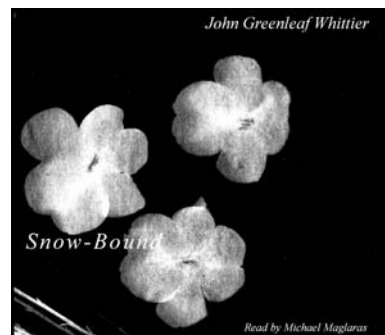
“In the mid to late 19th century, Haverhill, Massachusetts-born Whittier was one of the most famous men in America. Statesman, abolitionist, poet of the first rank, and one of the founders of the Republican party, his poems were read and memorized throughout America and much of the English-speaking world,” said Maglaras.

Maglaras founded 217 Records as a label devoted to celebrating the American artistic experience. The Whittier Bicentennial Recording Project is a labor of love for Maglaras, producer Terri Templeton, and the entire 217 Records team.

Volume 1 in this collection, “Snow-Bound,” (released in 2006) is dedicated entirely to Whittier’s masterpiece. This CD is the first contemporary recording of this epic poem.

Listen to an excerpt:

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/maglaras>





Volume 2, "Barbara Frietchie & Other Poems," will be released this month and includes 12 of Whittier's most beloved poems, including "The Pressed Gentian," "Burning Driftwood," and "The Barefoot Boy." All poems are read by Maglaras. *Listen to an excerpt:* <http://www.two17records.com>

In addition to the free reading of "Snow-Bound," 217 Records is also sponsoring a poetry recitation contest for Amesbury High School students to be held this May.

MORE ABOUT "SNOW-BOUND":

"Snow-Bound" was written in Amesbury, Massachusetts during the summer of 1865. The Civil War had just ended, and the nation was grieving the assassination of President Lincoln and the enormous loss of the soldiers who fought on both sides. Published in February of 1866, "Snow-Bound" was an immediate success, selling 20,000 copies in the first few months. 141 years later, this poetic masterpiece still resonates with as much power as the day it was published.

"Snow-Bound" captures a sense of time and place, and as a narrative poem depicts a bygone era in New England. It is also Whittier's own story...a story that begins with a special day that brought a family closer together.

A blizzard is in the making. As the sky darkens, the Whittier family and their guests sit huddled together in anticipation before the great fireplace in the Whittier homestead. The young Whittier lovingly observes each person present. As the fury of the blizzard begins to rage outside, the family and their guests realize that they will soon be cut off from the outside world. Inspired in this intimate setting, they begin, one by one, to open their hearts. Each person tells a story from his or her life, each story revealing that person's depth of soul and spirit...all seen through the eyes of Whittier as a young boy and remembered, fondly, by Whittier as a mature man in this masterpiece of American literature.

Download the complete text of "Snow-Bound": <http://www.two17records.com/Snow-Bound.htm>

February 15 -- 7:00 pm
"Snow-Bound" -- Live reading by Michael Maglaras
Amesbury Middle School Auditorium
222 Main Street
Amesbury, Massachusetts
FMI: Tami Kennedy (207) 838-0816
FREE admission

NOTE: Snow date is Friday, February 16 at 7:00 pm.

www.two17records.com

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