Addressing the Bard: Learning Ideas


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Abstract

The Scottish Poetry Library has published a new, provocative and exciting anthology of Burns poems, launched in the Year of Homecoming and of Burns's 250th anniversary. What makes this anthology different is that twelve contemporary poets have been asked to select one of Burns's poems and to respond to it. The result is an eclectic collection with some unexpected choices and responses that enlighten, challenge and amuse us. All of the response poems provide insight into Burns's original work and some may have a more direct resonance with modern readers. In addition to the book itself, these supporting resources are being provided on the Learning and Teaching Scotland website. The material has been developed by Liz Niven, poet, writer, and Scots-language educator, and Maureen Farrell, an English teacher and now teacher educator from the University of Glasgow.
Debut Control Bard (Halfling Bard, Angelcaller, Otto Tune, Electric Guitarist, Regal Trumpeter, Debut, Magic Mic): A midrangey control deck that focuses on combos with Debut and some of the high value melody minions. Melody Bard (Tavern Minstrel, Limelight, Double Time, Electric Guitarist, Bloodsail Shantyman): Crazy combo deck with Limelight, Debut, and Double Time that leads to some crazy combos. Addressing the Bard ki e J n iz ma . L te y Ba Ka g Me ac D u f y M a t t h e n n w I A Ca ro - J a m e s R o b e r t s Fitt on - Janet Paisley uses Burns’s ideas of courage against tyranny in the time of Bruce to relate to her own personal confrontations in ‘Aw Jock Tamson’s, and then argues that we must all recover courage and integrity in the financial and moral crises of today. (Her title draws on the Scots proverb that says that we’re all Jock Tamson’s bairns – that is, we all come from an ancient single father, and that we thus belong to common humanity. Read by people who might well be gentry, or the learned folk he satirises, caught between envy and pity – rhymes to be overheard by those who didn’t have to labour as he and his correspondents did, hard physical work in the cold.