

RUTH ROSEN

KEATS: BRIGHT STAR

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

"Spell-binding."

Director, CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

"Rosen is superb on Keats."

Fay Weldon, Writer

BATH FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

"A spell-binding performance, and (hugely) well-attended."

KEATS SHELLEY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL

"A hauntingly beautiful evocation... very moving."

Director, LEDBURY POETRY FESTIVAL

"... *She breathed fresh life* into the poems and letters of a young man who died 182 years ago. I am a huge fan of Keats, but *until I heard this performance*, I had not comprehended the youthful enthusiasm of his words, in prose and poetry. Ruth Rosen fairly bubbled over, and we could almost see the mobile, excited face of the young poet, looking forward to a bright future. His reputation rests on just a handful of great poems, and we heard them *as if for the first time*."

THE LEDBURY REPORTER

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, LONDON

"You captivated the audience with your sensitive readings - a Great tribute to Keats."

Jan Cullen - Director Public Programmes, NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

"Beautifully enunciated – new meanings and images came with the familiar poetry. There was just the right feeling of sorrow and humour communicated to us. Thank you!"

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

"It was absolutely enthralling. Your voice was a dream and your delivery absolutely magnificent. I was bowled over and will ever remain in awe of your skills. I can't wait to see another."

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

KEATS: BRIGHT STAR

“Spell-binding” Director of
The Cheltenham Festival of Literature



Ruth Rosen has established an international reputation for her highly individualised literary portraits.

“Rosen is superb on Keats” Fay Weldon

Keats’ brief, turbulent history is brought to life through Rosen’s delivery of his poetry and eloquent and surprisingly modern letters, which T.S. Eliot describes as, “certainly the most notable and most important ever written by any English poet.”

Ledbury Reporter

Keats's Last Summer (Bright Star)

■ Review: Burgage Hall

RUTH Rosen was introduced as one of the foremost performers of poetry in the UK, and *Keats's Last Summer* in the Burgage Hall last Sunday did not disappoint.

Somehow, she breathed fresh life into the poems and letters of a young man who died 182 years ago and has since become the familiar symbol of the suffering Romantic artist.

I am a huge fan of Keats, but until I heard this performance I had not comprehended the youthful enthusiasm of his words, in prose and poetry.

Ruth Rosen fairly bubbled over, and we could

almost see the mobile, excited face of the young poet, looking forward to a bright future that, in fact, was never to be his.

By hearing the date on each letter, we moved towards the inevitable. But the poetry too was unstoppable.

Keats was number three in a recent internet popularity poll of English language poets, behind Shakespeare and Donne.

His reputation rests on just a handful of great poems and we heard most of them, as if for the first time.

Notable recitals included *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Ode*

to a Grecian Urn, the love sonnet to Fanny Brawne, *Bright Star*, the celebrated *To Autumn* and the ballad *La Belle Dame Sans Merci*.

Obscure in his own lifetime, when he was not being attacked by critics, Keats is now regarded as perhaps one of the finest letter writers in the language.

Just before his untimely death from tuberculosis, aged just 25, Keats wrote, "I think I shall be with the English poets, after my death."

A modern audience could only agree.

GARY BILLS-GEDDES