

  
NAXOS  
AudioBooks

R.L. Stevenson  
**TREASURE ISLAND**

Read by **Jasper Britton**

JUNIOR  
CLASSICS



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1	The old Sea Dog at the 'Admiral Benbow'	6:10
2	Black Dog appears and disappears	5:29
3	The Black Spot	5:10
4	The sea-chest	6:34
5	The captain's papers	4:46
6	I go to Bristol	3:58
7	At the sign of the 'spy-glass'	3:54
8	Powder and arms	5:11
9	The voyage	5:11
10	What I heard in the apple barrel	4:19
11	Council of war	3:45
12	My shore adventure	5:45
13	The first blow	5:31
14	The man of the island	8:11

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Narrative continued by the Doctor:		
15	How the ship was abandoned	6:34
16	The jolly-boat's last trip	3:06
17	End of the first day's fighting	3:44
Narrative resumed by Jim Hawkins:		
18	The garrison in the stockade	3:34
19	Silver's embassy	4:11
20	The attack	5:20
21	How I began my sea adventure	4:49
22	The ebb-tide runs	4:30
23	The cruise of the coracle	5:59
24	Israel Hands with a dirk	5:56
25	In the enemy's camp	3:20
26	The Black Spot Again	2:15
27	I inform the Doctor	3:24
28	The treasure hunt	9:46
29	The fall of a chieftain	7:28
30	And last	4:54

**Total time: 2:32:55**

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## R.L. Stevenson

# TREASURE ISLAND

Robert Louis Stevenson was born in 1850, into a family of lighthouse builders: thus coastlines and the sea held a particular interest for him. He wrote **Treasure Island** (which he first called **The Sea Cook**) to entertain his thirteen-year-old stepson, during a wet family holiday in Scotland in 1881. He wrote it very quickly, completing a chapter a day, and soon all the family, including Stevenson's father, would wait expectantly for the next chapter.

The book first appeared in serial form in a periodical called **Young Folks**, under the pseudonym of Captain James North. Strangely, the serial was not particularly successful and when Stevenson wanted to publish the story in book form, several people tried to dissuade him, arguing that the book was inferior and would do nothing for his reputation. Wisely Stevenson persisted and answered his critics: "Let them write their damn masterpieces for themselves...and let me alone."

Until this time Stevenson had only written essays and short stories, and he was delighted when the manuscript was finally taken to be published as a book by Cassell & Co for one hundred pounds. He wrote to his parents: "A hundred jingling, tingling, golden, minted

quid. Is not this wonderful?" The book was published on 14th November 1883, became a Christmas best-seller, has sold on ever since and has become one of the most famous children's classics.

It is always difficult to pinpoint exactly why some books capture the public imagination and live on throughout the generations, but in **Treasure Island** we find that rare blend of narrative pace and superb characterisation. Long John Silver has become an archetype, and even those who have not read the book will be familiar with the one-legged pirate, with Captain Flint on his shoulder, squawking "pieces of eight". Indeed, every school fancy dress parade will have at least one Long John Silver. He is a superb invention: terrifying, charming, utterly plausible, and calculating his escape right to the end. There was some concern at the time of publication that the "arch-soundrel" should be allowed to survive, but the fact that Stevenson let him off to join his wife ensured that he would live on beyond the confines of the book, and hence take his place as one of the most memorable characters in children's fiction.

**Notes by Heather Godwin**

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**The music on this recording is taken from the  
NAXOS and MARCO POLO catalogues**

<b>SMETANA</b> ORCHESTRAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM OPERAS Czecho-Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra (Kosice), Robert Stankovsky	8.223326
<b>GERMAN</b> SUMMER FROM THE SEASONS RTE Concert Orchestra, Andrew Penny	8.223695
<b>BANTOCK</b> HEBRIDEAN SYMPHONY Czecho-Slovak State Philharmonic Orchestra (Kosice), Adrian Leaper	8.223274
<b>BORODIN</b> SYMPHONIES NOS. 1, 2 CSR Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava), Stephen Gunzenhauser	8.550238

**Music programming by Nicolas Soames**

# R.L. Stevenson TREASURE ISLAND

Read by **Jasper Britton**

**Treasure Island** must be the most enthralling adventure book ever written for children. As we listen to the voice of Jim Hawkins telling his extraordinary tale, and later that of his companion Dr Livesey, we are plunged into a world of pirates, buried treasure, mutiny and deceit. We meet Billy Bones, Blind Pew, Black Dog and, of course, the charming buccaneer Long John Silver. The action and adventure never falter, and the spell of this enduring story is sustained until the very last word.



**Jasper Britton** played the lead in the Regents Park Open Theatre production of *Richard III* and has also worked for the Royal National Theatre and the RSC. His television appearances include *The Bill* and *Peak Practice*. He also reads *Poets of the Great War* and *Romeo and Juliet* for Naxos AudioBooks.

*"Britton's highly versatile reading evokes the widely varying characters of this popular tale of treasure, treachery and cut-throat adventure."*

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Engineer (speech): Alan Smyth, Bucks Audio Cassettes

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Total time  
2:32:55