

HOW I LEARNED TO SING

Mark Robinson

- New and selected works from former Executive Director of Arts Council North East.
- Featured poet in major regional anthology *North by North-East* (Iron Press, 2006; ISBN 9780906228937), alongside Tony Harrison, Sean O'Brien, W.N. Herbert and others.
- Current affairs interest: looks at cultural regeneration of the North-East.

REGIONAL INTEREST North-East

About *How I Learned to Sing* by Mark Robinson

A senior job at the Arts Council meant that Mark Robinson did not send his poems out for over a decade, in case of potential conflicts of interest. Now he returns with a series of ambitious new poems, alongside the best of his work from the last 25 years.

How I Learned to Sing is a book about the industrial and cultural transformation of the North of England, from the Miners Strike to the Big Society – a series of bewildered elegies for people, times and places. Various tender, angry, surreal and grave, Robinson is an allusive and richly entertaining writer, exploring how here and now make ‘two halves of nowhere’, and wondering why ‘of many parallel worlds / I choose this one.’

About the author: Mark Robinson was born in Preston in 1964. A founder editor of *Scratch* magazine and Mudfog Press, he has worked as a chef, a literature development worker and a writer-in-residence in prisons. He spent ten years in senior management at Northern Arts and Arts Council England, including five years as Executive Director, North East. His previous books include *Half A Mind* (Flambard, 1998; ISBN 9781873226278), and *A Balkan Exchange: Near East North East* (Arc, 2008; ISBN 9781904614401). He lives in Stockton, where he runs the arts consultancy Thinking Practice.



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