# Audio file – “When I Have Fears”

[25-Track-25.mp3](https://neagov-my.sharepoint.com/personal/travisd_arts_gov/Documents/Transcribed%20Files/25-Track-25.mp3)

Dana Gioia

Although the Romantic poet John Keats was born two centuries after Shakespeare, he passionately admired Shakespeare. That may be one reason why he wrote so many sonnets of his own. Here is Rita Dove reciting “When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be” by John Keats:

Rita Dove

When I have fears that I may cease to be

Before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain,

Before high-pilèd books, in charactery,

Hold like rich garners the full ripened grain;

When I behold, upon the night’s starred face,

Huge cloudy symbols of a high romance,

And think that I may never live to trace

Their shadows with the magic hand of chance;

And when I feel, fair creature of an hour,

That I shall never look upon thee more,

Never have relish in the faery power

Of unreflecting love—then on the shore

Of the wide world I stand alone, and think

Till love and fame to nothingness do sink.