

HAPPY 200TH BIRTHDAY, HENRY

**Rock Away with H.W.L.**

written by Frank E. Reilly, Portland, Maine

Poetry is music  
The words lyrical,  
A lively melody from the piano,  
Resonant sounds from the violin,  
Brassy blues from a distant trumpet,  
Romantic strings of a mandolin,  
Do we not hear these sounds from poetry,  
As we let ourselves imagine, drift and dream  
Into a world of wonderment, joy, and promise,  
Or, in the minor key, sadness, melancholy and reflection,  
Allowing the poet's words to play out the tune  
With rhapsodic meaning, to enrich the soul, cleanse the mind.....  
A rock star in his time, celebrating his 200th birthday,  
A poet from Maine,  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
Is his name.



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*Responding to Longfellow* is a partnership of the Maine Historical Society; Maine's Poet Laureate; and the Stonecoast MFA Program at the University of Southern Maine. For more information, please visit

[www.hwlongfellow.org](http://www.hwlongfellow.org)