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M. Campbell, Rhythm and Will in Victorian Poetry

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Date de mise en ligne : samedi 26 décembre 2020

RHYTHM
AND WILL IN
VICTORIAN
POETRY

MATTHEW CAMPBELL

Rhuthmos

M. Campbell, *Rhythm and Will in Victorian Poetry*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1999, 292 p.

► In *Rhythm and Will in Victorian Poetry*, first published in 1999, Matthew Campbell explores the work of four Victorian poets - Tennyson, Browning, Hopkins and Hardy - as they show a consistent and innovative concern with questions of human agency and will. The Victorians saw the virtues attendant upon a strong will as central to themselves and to their culture, and Victorian poetry strove to find an aesthetic form to represent this sense of the human will. Through close study of the metre, rhyme and rhythm of a wide range of poems - including monologue, lyric and elegy - Campbell reveals how closely technical questions of poetics are related, in the work of these poets, to issues of psychology, ethics and social change. He goes on to discuss more general questions of poetics, and the implications of the achievement of the Victorian poets in a wider context, from Milton through Romanticism and into contemporary critical debate.

► **Matthew Campbell** is Professor of Modern Literature at the University of York. He is the author of *Irish Poetry Under the Union* (2013). He is also the editor of the *Cambridge Companion to Contemporary Irish Poetry* (Cambridge, 2003) and *The Voice of the People ; the European Folk Revival* (2012).