A sunset over the ocean with a rainbow on the left side. The sky is a deep blue with wispy white clouds. The water is a darker blue with gentle ripples. A bright rainbow is visible on the left side of the image, extending from the horizon towards the top left corner.

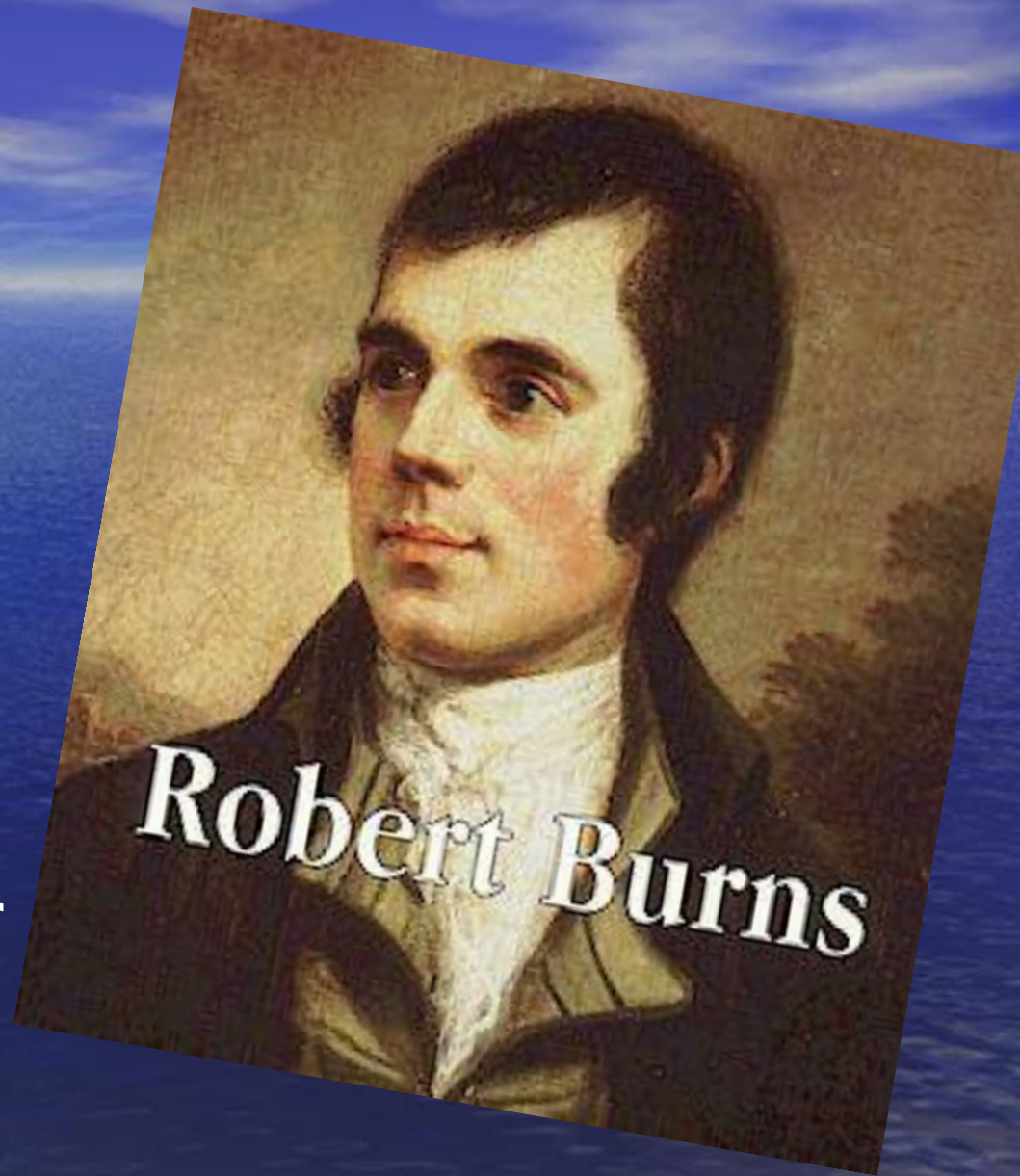
25 January, Robert Burn's birthday, is a Scottish national holiday - Burns Supper. It is celebrated by lovers of his poetry all over the world.



Robert Burns

(1759- 1796)

- Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet, was born on January 25, 1759 in Scotland. He died in poverty at the age of thirty — seven in 1796.



- His father, William Burns, was a poor farmer. There were seven children in the family, and Robert was the eldest.

- His father knew the value of a good education, and he tried to give his children the best education he could afford. Robert was sent to school at the age of six, but as his father could not pay for the two sons, Robert and his brother Gilbert attended school in turn.



- When not at school, the boys helped their father with his work in the fields. But soon the teacher left, and so Burns's father invited a young school teacher to teach the boys.



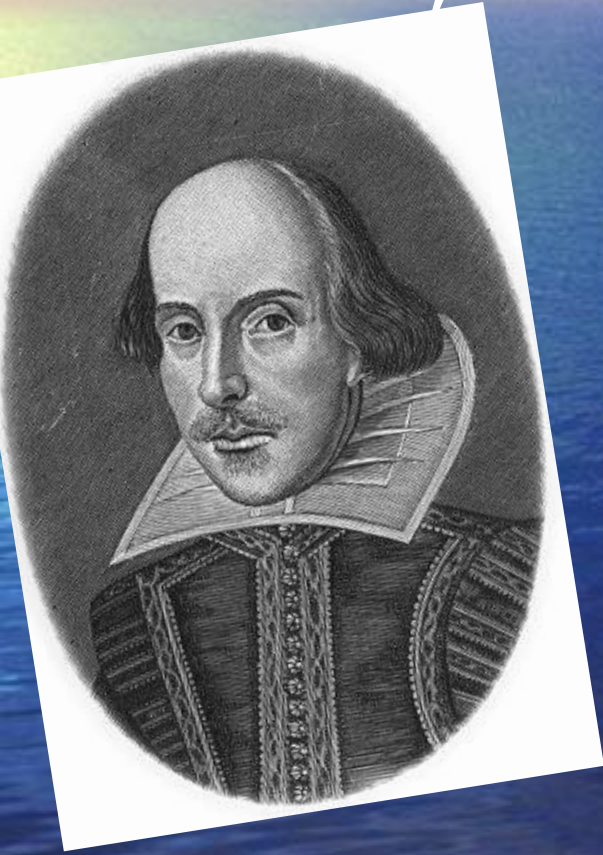
- When the teacher left, the poet's father taught the children himself. Reading and writing, arithmetic, English grammar, history, literature, and Latin - that was Robert Burns's education.



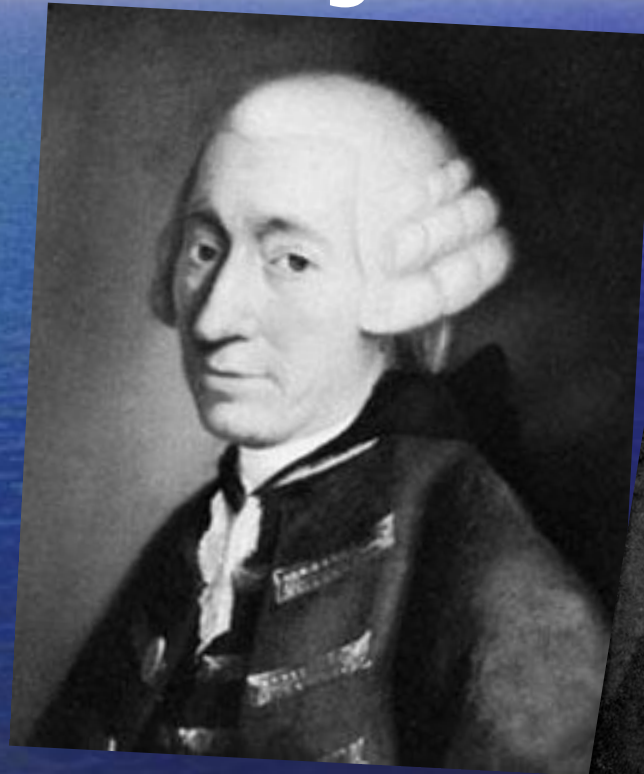
- Robert's mother knew many Scottish songs and ballads and often sang them to her son in his childhood.



- Robert Burns became fond of reading. His favourite writers were Shakespeare, Smolett, Robert Fergusson.



Shakespeare



Smolett



Fergusson

- Robert Burns began to write poetry when he was fifteen. He composed verses to the melodies of old folk-songs, which he had admired from his early childhood. He sang about the woods, fields and wonderful valleys of his native land.

- Burns published some of his poems in 1786. Their success was complete. And **Robert Burns** became well known and popular.

- When Burns came to Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, a new and enlarged edition of his poems was published. But soon Edinburgh society grew tired of him and forgot about the poet.



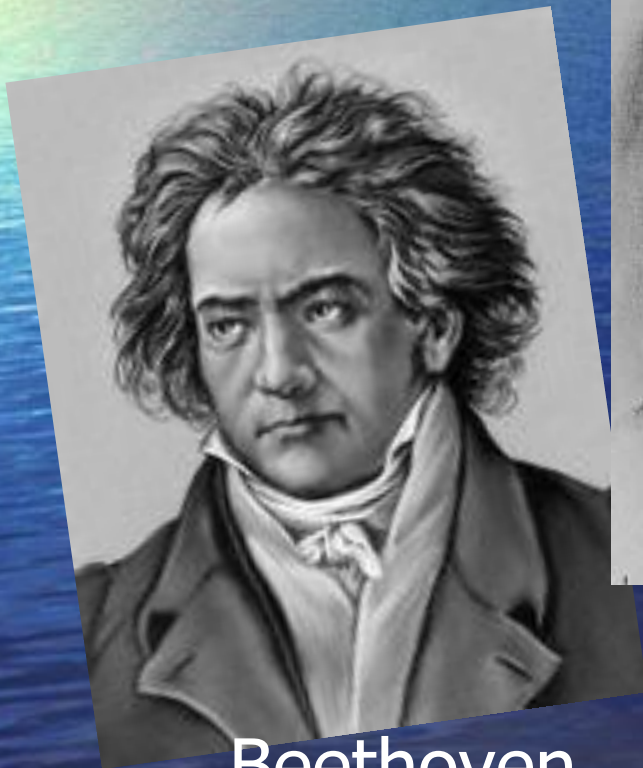
Jean Armour

- **Robert Burns** left Edinburgh and returned to his native village with money enough to buy a farm and marry Jean Armour.

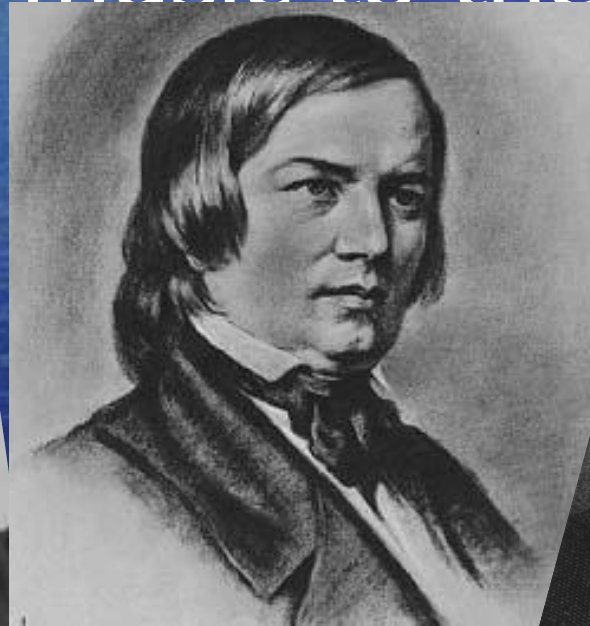
- Burns devoted to Jean many beautiful poems, such as "I love my Jean", "Bonnie Jean" and many others.

- Though Robert Burns's poems were very popular, he always remained poor. The poetry and songs of **Robert Burns** are famous all over the world.

- Robert Burns's poems and verses inspired Beethoven, Schumann, Mendelssohn and other composers who wrote music to them.



Beethoven



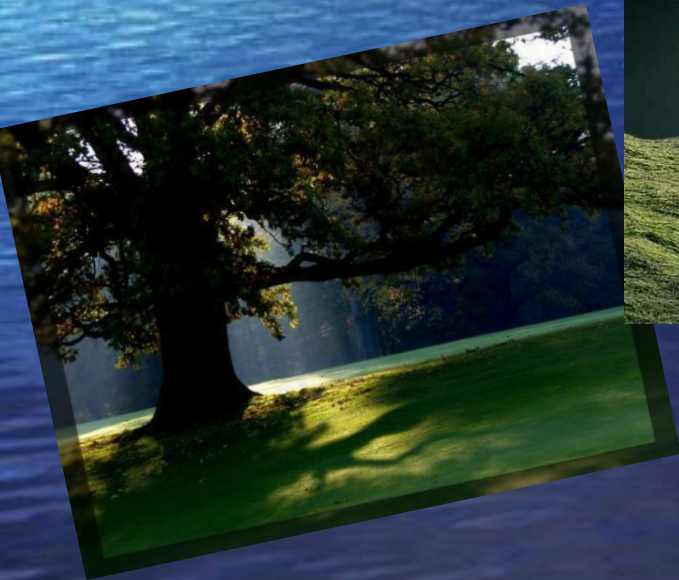
Schumann



Mendelssohn

- Burns was a democratic poet. His sympathy was with the poor. That is why his funeral was attended by a crowd of ten thousand.

- They were the common Scottish people whom he had loved and for whom he had written his poems and songs. The most popular poems of Robert Burns are "The Tree of Liberty", "My Heart's in the Highlands", "A Red, Red Rose" and many others.



Statue of Robert Burns,
Stanley Park, Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada



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Robert Burns Mausoleum,
St. Michael's churchyard in
Dumfries.

