

## EMERSON QUOTES



**“TRUST THYSELF: ...**  
every heart vibrates to that iron string.”

“To believe our own thought... — that is genius.”

### NATURE, INFINITUDE, WISDOM & SOUL:

“In the woods is perpetual youth...  
There I feel that nothing can befall me in life...  
no calamity...which nature cannot repair.”

“So far as man thinks, he is free.”

“To finish the moment, to find the journey’s end  
in every step ... to live the greatest number of  
good hours, is wisdom.”

“I have taught the infinitude of the private man.”

“The soul active sees absolute truth and utters truth.  
... The soul circumscribes all things.”



## SERVICES IN CHARACTER AS RALPH · WALDO · EMERSON

### ADDRESSES:

Fugitive Slave Law  
The Protest  
American Scholar  
Old Age  
Art  
Man, The Reformer  
Divinity School Address

### SERMONS: *(Titles attributed, Emerson used numerals)*

Trust Thyself (on Self-Reliance, #90, XC)  
Spiritual Discernment (#121, CXXI)  
Self-Cultivation (#144, CXLIV)  
Practicing Faith at Home (#10, X)  
Prayer Unceasing (#1)

### TEACHING SERVICES: *(without costume)*

SEMINARS:  
Self-Reliance  
Who Is a Transcendentalist?  
Nature and Man  
The Writer and the Poet

COURSES:  
Introductory Emerson  
*(Custom 2 to 6 sessions @ 90 minutes)*



### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## ORATIONS

*of*

Ralph · Waldo  
EMERSON

*Live*





ENDELL REFIOR is an Emerson scholar and impersonator. For the past decade, he has studied and taught the works of Ralph Waldo

Emerson. His courses have received rave reviews for his insights and passion for the inspiring idealism in Emerson's great essays and speeches. Appearing in period costume, Mr. Refior has thrilled a wide array of audiences delivering Emerson's most famous orations and sermons, including Self-Reliance, American Scholar (Intellectual Independence) and Fugitive Slave Law (Ethical Rights).

Mr. Refior began performing in solo appearances and historical reenactments across southern New England following Emerson's 2003 Bicentennial. He has performed a one-man show for Seniors Clubs, Northeastern University Workshops and Ladies Associations as well as delivered sermons for Unitarian Universalist Churches, bringing Ralph Waldo Emerson... "back to life." Wendell was selected as a panelist for a 2001 Emerson Society meeting. He is a Life Member of the Emerson Society and is serving on its Board for a 2007-2009 term. He is employed with a Boston-area biotech firm. Wendell lives with his wife in Belmont, Mass.

## TESTIMONIALS



"Mr. Refior's scholarship was apparent, and informed his responses, which were both challenging and uplifting. At no time did I find the performance inconsistent with anything I know about Emerson. Instead he offered solidly grounded and strongly defensible interpretations of all, even the most complex,

I feel lucky to have had the chance to work with Mr. Refior, and would be delighted to have the chance to do

so again. I strongly and without reservations recommend his impersonation of Emerson to anyone who knows, or would want to know, the Sage of Concord."

**Dr. Frederick J. Antczak**

*Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,  
Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI*

"For fifty minutes, Emerson's words came to life. For the next hour, Emerson's philosophy came to life as you managed the discussion with diplomacy and erudition. You embodied Emerson in your approach to the audience, and I think the discussion was as successful as the performance itself. Participants raved about Ralph Waldo Emerson day on the Lyceum tour, and you are mainly responsible for that. I look forward to working with you again."

**Richard A. Katula, Ph.D.,**

*Professor of Communication Studies,  
Northeastern University, Boston, MA*

"I really enjoyed your performance on Saturday. As you began speaking I realized how odd it was not to have had any notion of what Emerson's voice had really sounded like. We live in such an audio-visual age! It was quite wonderful to sink into the feeling that Emerson's words really were 'voiced,' and not simply read! I also thought you captured Emerson's gentle, kindly, but intellectual, demeanor quite well. Your performance was charming in that regard as well."

**Rev. Lucinda Duncan,**

*Minister, Follen Community Church, Lexington, MA*

## REVIEWS



"Refior, with his mutton-chop sideburns, made a convincing portrait, or tableau vivant, of the Sage of Concord at the podium. Delivering the young Emerson's 1830 sermon, "Trust Thyself," Refior urged his audience to defy conformity and seek their own genius. Pausing at times, chuckling or gesticulating, he



seemed like Emerson himself — if a bit older than the young man who originally prepared the sermon — delivering a well-rehearsed speech as if he were thinking of it for the first time."

Rick Heller — *Journalist and Author, Belmont, MA*

"Wendell Refior, in the character and costume of Ralph Waldo Emerson, led the order of worship for a well-attended service at the historic First Parish of Watertown on August 12, 2007. The opening and closing words were from Emerson's The Over-Soul and the (Harvard) Divinity School Address. He delivered Emerson's sermon No. 90, attributed the title "Trust Thyself." Rev. Mr. Emerson first delivered it at Second Church, Boston, October 3, 1830, proclaiming, "I wish to enforce the doctrine that a man should trust himself." Refior later commented that self-respect and the self-reliance which grows out of the Scripture doctrine of the value of the soul capture the main theme of the sermon. Mr. Refior's performance captured the sincerity and enthusiasm of the great teacher."

Lance McKee — *Independent Writer, Worcester, MA*

