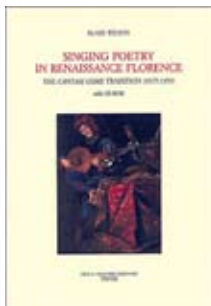


BLAKE WILSON
SINGING POETRY
IN RENAISSANCE FLORENCE
THE *CANTASI COME* TRADITION (1375-1550)

WITH CD-ROM

Our ideas about the musical soundscapes of early modern European cities tend to rely on surviving written musical sources, but *Singing Poetry in Renaissance Florence* reveals how restricted such evidence can be. The author reconstructs a pervasive oral singing culture that thrived at all levels of Florentine society from the late 14th through the mid-16th centuries. A database on CD-ROM accompanying the study includes over 1800 records, and a wealth of information searchable by fields dedicated to song titles, poetic forms, poets, composers, sources, and bibliographic information. The book explores the patterns and trends revealed by the database regarding the creation, dissemination and



performance of music and poetry in Renaissance Florence. The result is an unprecedented view of the ebb and flow in Florence of nearly every musico-poetic repertory of the day, from local improvisatory formulae to imported polyphony, all of it part of an actively performed repertory, and absorbed to the point of thriving

within an oral tradition. More broadly, this is a case study in a number of interactive dualities that shaped the urban cultures of early modern Europe: the transition from manuscript to print culture, the complex interaction of oral and written traditions, and a confluence of local and imported cultural goods that tended to blur boundaries between «popular» and elite culture.

Questo è il primo studio esauriente sulle fonti e la pratica della ricca e caratteristica tradizione fiorentina del cantasi come. Il CD-Rom accluso fornisce molte informazioni in campi di ricerca per titoli delle canzoni, forme poetiche, poeti, compositori, fonti a informazioni bibliografiche. Lo studio esamina i modelli e le tendenze che emergono dal database riguardanti la creazione, divulgazione e rappresentazione di poesia e musica a Firenze in un periodo di quasi 200 anni.

BLAKE WILSON is Professor of Music at Dickinson College (Pennsylvania). He is a former fellow of Villa I Tatti, the Harvard Center for Italian Renaissance Studies. His research concerns the musical cultures of late medieval and Renaissance Italy. He is the author of *Music & Merchants: the Laudesi Companies of Republican Florence* (Oxford, 1992), an edition of the *Florence Laudario* (A-R Editions, 1995), and articles in the *New Grove Dictionary*, *Journal of Musicology*, *Early Music History*, *Recercare*, and the *Rivista Italiana di Musicologia*. He is currently at work on an edition of Heinrich Isaac's music for Florence, and a study of Florentine improvisatory singing traditions.

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