

JANIE COLE

MUSIC, SPECTACLE
AND CULTURAL BROKERAGE
IN EARLY MODERN ITALY

MICHELANGELO BUONARROTI IL GIOVANE

Michelangelo Buonarroti il Giovane (1568–1647), a Florentine patrician and great-nephew of the famous artist, was one of the principal poets producing musical spectacles for conspicuous consumption by the Medici grand dukes, collaborating with major composers amid contemporary experiments that became the forerunners of early opera and put him at the intersection of powerful forces of patrons and clients. By examining the broader concepts of cultural clientelism and brokerage networks in the early modern process of cultural dissemination, Janie Cole analyzes Buonarroti's multifaceted roles at Italy's princely courts,



recasting his significant contribution to early seventeenth-century Italian musical spectacle and literature, his critical role as a cultural broker and his involvement with the leading institutions in Florence's civic life – from literary, musical and artistic academies and confraternities to churches and convents and private households – thus exploring music and poetry's broader places in the city's ceremonial practices and cultural discourses and the intersections between court and city, state and church, sacred and secular, and public and private in an intricate world of shifting power dynamics during the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods.

Affrontando il concetto di clientelismo nel processo di diffusione culturale nella prima età moderna, l'autrice esamina i molteplici ruoli assunti da Michelangelo Buonarroti il Giovane presso le corti principesche italiane, il suo rilevante contributo alla letteratura e allo spettacolo musicale fiorentino nella sua collaborazione coi maggiori compositori, e il ruolo cruciale che svolse come mediatore culturale in un intricato mondo segnato da mutevoli dinamiche di potere tra la fine del Rinascimento e il primo '600.

JANIE COLE, Ph.D., is a scholar of Italian and French music, literature, opera, theatre and culture of the late sixteenth- and early seventeenth centuries. Her publications include *A Muse of Music in Early Baroque Florence: the Poetry of Michelangelo Buonarroti il Giovane* (Olschki, 2007) and numerous articles. She was awarded a fellowship at The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies and the Stephen Arlen Award from English National Opera. Supported by the Getty Foundation/Harvard, Cole is currently working on Medici women patrons, and a book project on South African music, for which she was awarded the 2010 Janet Levy prize from the American Musicological Society.

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