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Dante's Journey to Polyphony (Toronto Italian Studies)

Francesco Ciabattoni

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In *Dante's Journey to Polyphony*, Francesco Ciabattoni's erudite analysis sheds light on Dante's use of music in the *Divine Comedy*. Following the work's musical evolution, Ciabattoni moves from the cacophony of *Inferno* through the monophony of *Purgatory*, to the polyphony of *Paradise* and argues that Dante's use of sacred songs constitutes a thoroughly planned system. Particular types of music accompany the pilgrim's itinerary and reflect medieval theories regarding sound and the sacred.

Combining musicological and philological scholarship, this book analyzes Dante's use of music in conjunction with the form and content of his verse, resulting in a cross-discipline analysis also touching on Italian Studies, Medieval Studies, and Cultural History. After moving from infernal din to heavenly harmony, Ciabattoni's final section addresses the music of the spheres, a theory that enjoyed great diffusion among the early middle ages, inspiring poets and philosophers for centuries.

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