Athenian comic drama was written for performance at festivals honoring the god Dionysos. Through dramatic action and open discourse, poets sought to engage their rivals and impress the audience, all in an effort to obtain victory in the competitions. This book uses that competitive performance context as an interpretive framework within which to understand the thematic interests shaping the plots and poetic quality of Aristophanes’ plays in particular, and of Old Comedy in general. Studying five individual plays from the Aristophanic corpus as well as fragments of other comic poets, it reveals the competitive poetics distinctive to each. It also traces thematic connections with other poetic traditions, especially epic, lyric, and tragedy, and thereby seeks to place competitive poetics within broader trends in Greek literature.

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ARISTOPHANES AND
THE POETICS OF
COMPETITION

ZACHARY P. BILES
Franklin & Marshall College
For Jill, Hannah and Zoe

Χαρίτεσσιν ὁμοῖαι
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Abbreviations

ARV²  J. D. Beazley, *Attic Red-Figure Vase-Painters*, 2nd edn. (Oxford 1963)
FGrHist  F. Jacoby, *Fragmente der griechischen Historiker* (Berlin and Leiden 1923–58)
IG  *Inscriptiones Graecae* (Berlin 1873–)
LIMC  *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae* (Zurich and Munich 1981–)
RE  *Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft* (Stuttgart 1893–1970; Munich, 1972–)
SEG  *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*
List of abbreviations

References to ancient authors and works are according to abbreviations in LSJ. Abbreviations for periodicals follow L’Année Philologique, except where a more commonly used form is preferred and will be obvious (e.g., AJP instead of AJPh).