Medieval Music-Making and the
Roman de Fauvel

This book explores the role of music in the early fourteenth-century French manuscript Bibliothèque Nationale de France, fr. 146. The repertories found in this manuscript, particularly those interpolated into the Old French satire, the Roman de Fauvel, are frequently used to illuminate the wider history of French medieval music. This study sets the manuscript against the wider culture of Parisian book-making, showing how in devising new systems of design and folio layout, its creators developed a new kind of materiality in music: it illustrates how music is expressive in ways that are unperformable apart from its visual representation. This study is primarily concerned with the workings of fr. 146; however, it also argues that the new attitudes to (material) music-making embodied in that manuscript serve as a model for exploring other music manuscripts to emerge in late medieval France.

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New perspectives in music history and criticism

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Medieval Music-Making and the Roman de Fauvel

EMMA DILLON
For my parents
What a mighty stream of pleasure made glad our hearts when we came to Paris, Paradise of the world... there are delightful libraries more aromatic than a store of spice; there are abundant orchards of all manner of books.

Richard of Bury, Philobiblon, Book VIII
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It is a great pleasure to thank all those who have supported this work through its various stages, from doctoral dissertation to book. I owe a debt of gratitude to my teachers, colleagues and friends at Christ Church, Oxford – particularly to my undergraduate tutors, Stephen Darlington and John Milsom; at the University of Bristol; and at the University of California at Berkeley. I am especially grateful to my colleagues in the Department of Music at the University of Pennsylvania: they helped in innumerable ways to smooth the transition from England to America, thereby allowing me to find the space to complete this book while negotiating the challenges of a new job. I am grateful to the librarians of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the British Library and Bibliothèque Nationale de France, and especially to John Wagstaff and the team of librarians at the Music Faculty Library, Oxford. I am especially grateful to John Pollack and the team in the Annenberg Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Pennsylvania, who stepped in at the last moment to help with the assembly of some of the images in this book. I am glad to acknowledge the Dean and Canons of Christ Church, Oxford, the British Academy, the Oxford–Paris Programme and the Zaharoff Fund who funded the original research for this project. A research grant from the University of Pennsylvania helped towards publication costs. I am grateful to all those who have helped in the production of this book. Penny Souster has been a patient and wise editor: my thanks to her and my series editors, especially Jeffrey Kallberg, for their encouragement throughout this project. My thanks also to Shirley Williams and Leigh Mueller for the meticulous care with which they copy-edited this book.

Margaret Bent first inspired me to work on the Middle Ages, and I warmly thank her for all of her help regarding this project, and both her and Andrew Wathey for welcoming me into the Fauvel community. Particular thanks are due to Kevin Brownlee, Christopher Page and Jane Taylor, who read portions of this work in an earlier guise; Elizabeth A. R. Brown and Nancy Freeman Regalado were similarly instrumental in shaping this project. Susan Rankin and John Caldwell were generous examiners of my doctoral dissertation and made several helpful suggestions about that work. I furthermore owe a special debt to Susan Rankin for her encouragement and ideas about how to develop my original
Acknowledgements

research into a book. Earlier versions of several chapters were presented as papers at the University of Bristol, the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Trondheim, the University of California at Berkeley, and at the University of Pennsylvania. An earlier version of parts of Chapters 2 and 6 appeared in the *Journal of Musicology*, and I am glad to thank the University of California Press for permission to reprint material here.

A number of other people have influenced my thinking about matters medieval, musicological and material. Above all, my thanks to Roger Parker, who read every mutation of this work, from the first tentative dissertation drafts to the final manuscript of this book: he has been a generous and insightful reader, teacher and friend, and my book would have taken much longer to materialize without his help. Conversations with John Drury and Christopher Butler on two memorable occasions had an important influence on this work, and I am additionally indebted to the latter for his comments on early versions of Chapter 2. My sense that the nineteenth-century reception of fr. 146 had a part to play in this book has been greatly inspired by the work and encouragement of Katherine Bergeron. I owe a great deal to my friends and colleagues Suzanne Aspden, Laura Basini, Kate Bennett, Stephen Campbell, Vahni Capildeo, Jonathan Cross, Kathryn Duys, Penny Galloway, Chris Hasty, Carol Ann Muller, Cormac Newark, Alice Staveley and Beth Williamson who have been generous and good-natured listeners, and whose many comments and suggestions have helped shape my thinking in innumerable ways.

My final thanks are to Claire and Alex Dixon, for their unfailing support; to Sheila Ford and John Tansley, for the help and encouragement they have given me; and to my brother, Charles, in particular for never enquiring too closely how work was progressing. To my parents I owe the greatest debt: this work is dedicated to them in gratitude for their unconditional faith in all that I do.
ABBREVIATIONS

BN
Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France

Fauvel
Roman de Fauvel portion of fr. 146

Fauvel 1990

Fauvel Studies

fr. 146
Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, fonds français 146

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Note. All translations are my own except where otherwise stated