

Women and Music in Sixteenth-Century Ferrara

The *musica secreta* or *concerto delle dame* of Duke Alfonso II d'Este, an ensemble of virtuoso female musicians that performed behind closed doors at the *castello* in Ferrara, is well-known to music history. Their story is often told by focusing on the Duke's obsessive patronage and the exclusivity of their music. This book examines the music-making of four generations of princesses, noblewomen, and nuns in Ferrara, as performers, creators, and patrons from a new perspective. It rethinks the relationships between polyphony and song, sacred and secular, performer and composer, patron and musician, court and convent. With new archival evidence and analysis of music, people, and events over the course of the century, from the role of the princess nun musician, Leonora d'Este, to the fate of the *musica secreta*'s jealously guarded repertoire, this radical approach will appeal to musicians and scholars alike.

Laurie Stras is Research Professor of Music at the University of Huddersfield, where she teaches and researches sixteenth-century music, popular music, and music and disability. She is co-director of the ensemble *Musica Secreta*, with whom she has made four acclaimed recordings, including *Lucrezia Borgia's Daughter*, winner of the 2016 Noah Greenberg Award from the American Musicological Society.

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Laurie Stras
University of Huddersfield



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Note on Music Prints and Translations

Unless there are reasons for a complete title to be included, primary source music prints are referred to by short title in the text and captions; multi-author prints are referred to in captions using the sigla by which they are identified in *Répertoire international des sources musicales* (RISM), series B/I. Publication details (place: publisher, date) are included unless this is clear in the surrounding text.

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Abbreviations

Libraries and Archives

I-Baa	Archivio arcivescovile, Bologna
I-Bc	Museo internazionale e biblioteca della musica, Bologna
I-Fas	Archivio di Stato, Florence
	AM Archivio Mediceo del Principato
	CRSGF Corporazioni religiose soppresse dal governo francese
I-FEamcd	Archivio del monastero di Corpus Domini, Ferrara
I-FEas	Archivio di Stato, Ferrara
I-FEasd	Archivio Storico Diocesano, Ferrara
I-FEc	Biblioteca Comunale Ariostea, Ferrara
I-Fn	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence
I-MAas	Archivio di Stato, Mantua
	AGCE Archivio Gonzaga, Corrispondenza esterna
	AGCI Archivio Gonzaga, Corrispondenza interna
I-MOas	Archivio di Stato, Modena
	CAI Cancelleria Ducale, Carteggio ambasciatori, Italia
	CDL Camera Ducale Estense, Libri camerale diversi
	CDP Cancelleria Ducale, Carteggi e documenti di particolari
	CPE Cancelleria Ducale, Carteggio con principi esteri
	CS Casa e Stato, Carteggi tra principi estensi
	GS Cancelleria Ducale, Magistrato poi Giunta Suprema di Giurisdizione Sovrana
I-MOe	Biblioteca Estense, Modena
I-PAas	Archivio di Stato, Parma
	CFE Carteggio farnesiano estero
	CFI Carteggio farnesiano interno
I-Pap	Biblioteca Nazionale Palatina, Parma
I-Rasv	Archivio segreto, Vatican City, Rome
I-VEaf	Biblioteca dell'Accademia Filarmonica, Verona

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