This book brings together a distinguished group of scholars from music, drama, poetry, performance art, religion, classics, and philosophy to investigate the complex and developing interaction between performance and authenticity in the arts. The volume begins with a perspective on traditional understandings of that relation, examining the crucial role of performance in the Poetics, the marriage of art with religion, the experiences of religious and aesthetic authenticity, and modernist conceptions of authenticity. Several essays then consider music as a performative art. The final essays discuss the link of authenticity to sincerity and truth in poetry, explain how performance, as an authentic feature of poetry, embodies a collective effort, and culminate in a discussion of the dark side of performance – its constant susceptibility to inauthenticity. Together the essays suggest how issues of performance and authenticity enter into consideration of a wide range of the arts.
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Performance and authenticity in the arts
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Performance and authenticity in the arts

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Acknowledgments

“Understanding Music” by Michael Tanner and “Understanding Music” by Malcolm Budd originally appeared in the *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, vol. 59, 1985 and are reprinted here by courtesy of the Editor of the Aristotelian Society: © 1985. We are grateful to Dr Jonathan Wolff and Dr Majid Amini for their help.

We should like to thank Alex Neill, Nicholas Davey, and Peter Kaufman for their timely help and valuable advice. Jane Baston and Jane Whitehead are marvelous. This book is for Rahim.