

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-76045-4 - Plato on Music, Soul and Body
Francesco Pelosi
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PLATO ON MUSIC, SOUL AND BODY

Plato's reflection on the relationship between soul and body has attracted scholars' attention since antiquity. Less noted, but worthy of consideration, is Plato's thought on music and its effects on human beings. This book adopts an innovative approach towards analysing the soul-body problem by uncovering and emphasising the philosophical value of Plato's treatment of the phenomenon of music. By investigating in detail how Plato conceives of the musical experience and its influence on intelligence, passions and perceptions, it illuminates the intersection of cognitive and emotional functions in Plato's philosophy of mind.

FRANCESCO PELOSI obtained a Ph.D. in philosophy at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa. His main field of research is the relation between music and philosophy in ancient Greece.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-76045-4 - Plato on Music, Soul and Body
Francesco Pelosi
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

PLATO ON MUSIC, SOUL AND BODY

FRANCESCO PELOSI

Translated by Sophie Henderson



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
 978-0-521-76045-4 - Plato on Music, Soul and Body
 Francesco Pelosi
 Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
 São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Cambridge University Press
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521760454

© Francesco Pelosi 2010

This English translation © Sophie Henderson 2010

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
 no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
 permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2010

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Pelosi, Francesco.

Plato on music, soul and body / Francesco Pelosi.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-76045-4 (hardback)

1. Plato – Criticism and interpretation. 2. Music – Philosophy and aesthetics.
 3. Music – Psychological aspects. 4. Music, Greek and Roman – History and criticism. I. Title.

ML169.P45 2010

781.1'7 – dc22 2010025071

ISBN 978-0-521-76045-4 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or
 accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to
 in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such
 websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> vi
Introduction	i
1 Musical education of sensibility	14
2 Moving to music: a therapy for the rational soul	68
3 Musical education of rationality	114
4 Music in the body and soul	152
Conclusion	196
<i>References</i>	202
<i>Index locorum</i>	213
<i>General index</i>	226

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-76045-4 - Plato on Music, Soul and Body
Francesco Pelosi
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

This book is a revised version of my Ph.D. thesis, defended at the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa in February 2007; its writing involved the support of various people whom I would like to thank. I am deeply grateful to Professor Maria Michela Sassi for the advice and care that guided me through the various phases of this book, and in my university courses in general, as I am for her many years' support of my study projects and the close attention that she has always given my work. I would like to thank Professor Andrew Barker, for the enthusiasm and helpfulness with which he discussed various points of my book and the manner in which he encouraged and supported me in its composition; to his knowledge of the connections between music and philosophy in ancient Greece and to the generosity with which he always shared it I owe considerably more than this book might suggest. I am grateful to Professor Giuseppe Cambiano for the support he gave to this work and his encouragement to follow up further developments in the link between music and philosophy in Neoplatonic thought, through a research project at the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa, to which I was able to contribute by making use of a year's research fellowship. Thanks to Dr. Maria Chiara Martinelli I had the opportunity to dedicate myself to the study of ancient Greek music, enjoying numerous occasions for discussion and exchange. I am most grateful to my two anonymous referees at Cambridge University Press: their many acute observations on the first draft offered me the opportunity to return to the book's form and content from fresh perspectives and with deeper understanding. I would like to thank the members of the Doctorate Board, for their observations and ideas, which I hope I have successfully considered and included in the current version. At various moments of the book's drafting I have been able to count on the generous help of Luigi Battezzato, David Creese, Francesca Maltomini and Linda Woodward, all of whom I warmly thank. To the family and friends who have been at my side over these years I would like to extend my heartfelt and affectionate gratitude.

Cambridge University Press
978-0-521-76045-4 - Plato on Music, Soul and Body
Francesco Pelosi
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

A mia madre, in ricordo di mio padre