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978-0-521-81705-9 - A History of Singing  
John Potter and Neil Sorrell  
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## A HISTORY OF SINGING

Why do we sing and what first drove early humans to sing? How might they have sung, and how might those styles have survived to the present day? This history addresses these questions and many more, examining singing as a historical and cross-cultural phenomenon. It explores the evolution of singing in a global context – from Neanderthal man to Auto-tune via the infinite varieties of world music from Orient to Occident, classical music from medieval to the avant-garde, and popular music from vaudeville to rock and beyond. Considering singing as a universal human activity, the book provides an in-depth perspective on singing from many cultures and periods: Western and non-Western, prehistoric to present. Written in a lively and entertaining style, the history contains a comprehensive reference section for those who wish to explore the topic further, and will appeal to an international readership of singers, students and scholars.

JOHN POTTER is a singer and writer. He was for many years a member of the Hilliard Ensemble and he has an eclectic discography of some 150 titles which include five gold discs and several Grammy nominations, and music ranging from Leonin to Led Zeppelin. He currently maintains a portfolio of freelance performance projects and also coaches vocal ensembles and choirs all over the world. He spent twelve years as a lecturer at the University of York and is now an independent performer and scholar, researching all aspects of the voice. He is the editor of *The Cambridge Companion to Singing* (2000), author of *Vocal Authority* (1998) and *Tenor: History of a Voice* (2009), and has contributed to several Cambridge Histories of Music.

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**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

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[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781107630093](http://www.cambridge.org/9781107630093)

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First published 2012

Paperback edition first published 2014

Reprinted 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by Clays, St Ives plc

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

ISBN 978-0-521-81705-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-107-63009-3 Paperback

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## *Acknowledgements*

We would like to thank the staff at Cambridge University Press for being so patient, especially Jodie Barnes and Rebecca Taylor, commissioning editors Penny Souster and Vicki Cooper, and our assiduous copy editor Hilary Scannell. Among the many people whose advice we have sought we should particularly like to thank Alan Bilgora, Tim Day, Liz Haddon, Larry Josefovitz, Daniel Lasker, David Lefkowitz, Chris Macklin, Ned Potter and Penny Potter. Parts of chapters 5 and 7 have drawn on John Potter's 'Beggars at the Door: the Rise and Fall of Portamento in Singing', *Music & Letters* 87: 4 (2006).