

## Monteverdi and the Marvellous

The marvellous, a key concept in literary debates at the turn of the seventeenth century, involved sensory and perspectival transformation: a rhetoric built on the unexpected, contradictory, and thought-provoking. The composer Claudio Monteverdi (1567–1643) created a new practice in which the expressive materials of music and poetry were placed in concert. This innovative new study of Monteverdi's literary personality integrates musical and poetic analysis to create an approach to text–music relations that addresses scholars of both literature and music. It illuminates how experiments in language and perception at the turn of the seventeenth century were influenced and informed by the work of musicians of that era. Giles provides a new perspective on the music and poetry of Monteverdi's madrigals through the poetics of the marvellous. In his madrigals, Monteverdi created a reciprocity between poetry and music that encouraged audiences to contemplate their interactions and, consequently, to listen differently.

ROSEEN GILES is Assistant Professor of Music at Duke University. She is a specialist in the music of Claudio Monteverdi and the author of numerous essays on early modern musical culture and the histories of music and literature.

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# Monteverdi and the Marvellous

## Poetry, Sound, and Representation

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ROSEEN GILES

Duke University





Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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*For my family,  
in the fullness of time . . .*

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