# Contents

Acknowledgments  ix  

Introduction  1  

1 Women Performers and World Religions: On Ritual, Local Practice, Universals, and Comparison  5  

2 Wedding Lamentation: Singing Sorrow, Embodying the Future  27  

3 Demeter’s Lamentation and Baubo’s Mockery: Responses to the Marriage (Abduction) of Persephone  57  

4 Revelry and Resistance: Prenuptial Performances of Mockery and Ridicule  63  

5 Girls’s Poetry and Social Critique at Muslim Berber Weddings  97  

6 Transgression and Tarantella among Catholic Women in Calabria  112  

Afterword  128  

Notes  133  

Bibliography  157  

Index  171