

Contents

Preface ix

Acknowledgments xiii

INTRODUCTION: Queering Post–World War II
Masculinity through Music 1

CHAPTER ONE. Visibly Hidden: Postwar Disorientation,
Queer Community, and Queer Ambivalence 29

CHAPTER TWO. A Freak Deferred: Johnnie Ray
Navigates Innovation and Convention 51

CHAPTER THREE. Spectacular Vacillations: Little Richard
Charms and Disarms America 79

CHAPTER FOUR. Fine and Dandy: Mapping Johnny Mathis's
Negotiations of Race, Sexuality, and Affect 115

CHAPTER FIVE. Building an Empire of Illusion: Liberace
and the Art of Queering 147

CONCLUSION: Disquieting and Exciting:
Queering Tools in Popular Music and Queer Becoming 179

Notes 191

References 201

Discography 217

Index 219