CONTENTS

Prelude: Parsifal as Art and Ideology	3
Part 1: The Process of Composition	
1. The Poem: Its Background and Evolution	47
Carlo Gozzi's La donna serpente	47
The Paris and Dresden Periods	51
Parzival as Wandering Pilgrim in Tristan und Isolde	59
Kundry as a Mysterious Compound Being	63
The Prose Draft of 1865	68
The Completion of the Text	72
2. The Genesis of the Music	76
The "Dresden Amen" and "Excelsior!" Motives	76
The Sketch Fragments and Their Reconstruction	81
The Earliest Sketches	90
The "Core of the Whole": the Music of the Grail	94
The Relation of Sketches and Drafts	104
Act 1	108
Act 2	132
Act 3	151
Revisions after April 1879	181
The Transformation Music of Act I	185
Part 2: Musical Form and Dramatic Meaning	
3. Wagner's Late Style	195
4. Grail and Anti-Grail	227
5. The Sense of an Ending	252
Selected Bibliography	302
Index	319
Acknowledgments	325

