

Contents

Preface	ix
1 Opulent Optatives	1
Occasion	6
Vision	8
Representation	11
Expression	18
Vocation	29
Persuasion	35
2 Festal Magic in Renaissance Masking	40
The crisis of aristocracy	48
Wonder in the masque: A philosophic bias	60
Miracle: Probability in the masque	68
The politics of the vanishing point	79
3 An Expostulation with Inigo Jones	87
“A wooden dagger”	94
“Musique where noe eare can reach”	96
“Things sacred from prophane to separate”	110

4	Transcendental Form	116
	Size	120
	Medium	126
	Virtuosity	130
	Montage and perspectivism	136
	Freedom	140
5	The Transcendental Masque	147
	The "handy but illogical" title <i>Comus</i>	153
	Drama, transformation, and temptation	161
	The triumph of song	166
	After the Italian manner, <i>stilo recitativo</i>	175
	Thyrsis: The Orphic persona	186
6	The Bound Man	195
	The principle of echo	198
	Chastity, virginity, and time	209
	The Lady's ecstasy	214
	Typological repetition	219
	Ricercare on a theme of atonement	226
	A Note on Blake's Illustrations for <i>Comus</i>	253
	Blake's Illustrations for <i>Comus</i> in Eight Scenes, Two Series	<i>following page</i> 256
	Index	257