

Contents

List of illustrations [page vi]

List of tables [ix]

List of music examples [ix]

Acknowledgements [x]

List of abbreviations [xiii]

Introduction: the ringing island [1]

1 The power of music [32]

2 Occupational musicians: denigration and defence [71]

3 Occupational musicians: employment prospects [107]

4 Recreational musicians [173]

5 Ballads and their audience [225]

6 Balladry and the meanings of melody [288]

7 ‘The skipping art’: dance and society [328]

8 Parish church music: the rise of ‘the singing psalms’ [391]

9 Parish church music: bells and their ringers [454]

Conclusion: the musical milieux of Machyn and Pepys [505]

Appendix: notes on the recordings [526]

Select bibliography [556]

Index [591]