CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	9
INTRODUCTION	11
Studying le vers	15
PART ONE. BAUDELAIRE	
1. RHYTHM IN THEORY	21
The meanings of nombre	22
The universal analogy	25
The gouffre	27
The rhythmic veil	29
2. RHYTHM IN PRACTICE	39
The formal inscription of irony	39
Tension at the caesura	41
Adjacent accents	47
Effects of rejet and contre-rejet	56
The reinforcement of harmony	60
Poetry as irresolvable tension	74
The meaninglessness of rhythm	81
3. RHYTHM AND PROSE POETRY	87
Into the gouffre	87
The instability of the sign	90
Rejection of an objective poetics	93
The problem of authority	97
Authorial insight and poetic mystery	107
The problematization of poetic form	112
Poetry and the search for rhythm	117
Conclusion	125
PART TWO. RIMBAUD	
4. CHALLENGING AN EXCLUSIVE POETICS	131
The meaning of rhythm	132
The Rimbaldian alexandrine	136
The role of rhyme harmony	146
Into the Rimbaldian gouffre	150

The interpretative dilemma	153
The boat overwhelmed	154
'La Lettre du voyant'	158
5. A FORMALLY INCLUSIVE POETICS	163
From alexandrine to dodecasyllable	165
The decasyllable	169
Other metres	171
Syllabic uncertainty	176
The search for harmony	182
Failure of an inclusive poetics	186
6. RESTORING POETIC MYSTERY	191
Exclusivity re-defined	191
Formal problematization	194
The search for rhythm	198
The poet as guarantee	208
PART THREE. MALLARMÉ	
7. TOWARDS AN EXTERNAL IDEAL	217
An Absolute Rhythm	219
Hérodiade	221
'Le Faune, Intermède héroïque'	230
'Ouverture d'Hérodiade'	237
8. PROTECTING A POETIC FICTION	247
The internal Ideal	247
The ambiguous status of rhythm	250
Impersonality and individuality	255
Regularity and irregularity	260
9. THE INTERNAL IDEAL AND POETIC FORM	269
The Mallarméan alexandrine (1880-1890s)	269
The vanity of verse	276
The sonnet and the Ideal	281
Rhyme and the Ideal	286
A formal conundrum	298

Conclusion	309
BIBLIOGRAPHIES	315
I. General	315
II. Baudelaire	324
III. Rimbaud	328
IV. Mallarmé	334
APPENDIX (DATES OF TEXTS)	339
Index	
Authors	349
Works by Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Mallarmé	350

Contents