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Titolo Drama, poetry and music in late-Renaissance Italy: the life and works of Leonora Bernardi

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Sommario/riassunto Leonora Bernardi (1559-1616), a gentlewoman of Lucca, was a highly

regarded poet, dramatist and singer. She was active in the brilliant courts of Ferrara and Florence at a time when creative women enjoyed exceptional visibility in Italy. Like many such figures, she has since suffered historical neglect. Drama, Poetry and Music in Late-Renaissance Italy presents the first ever study of Bernardi's life, and modern edition of her recently discovered literary corpus, which mostly exists in manuscript. Her writings appear in the original Italian with new English translations, scholarly notes, critical essays and contributions by Eric Nicholson, Eugenio Refini and Davide Daolmi Based on new archival research, the substantial opening section reconstructs Bernardi's unusually colourful life. Bernardi's works reveal her connections with some of the most pioneering poets, dramatists and musicians of the day, including her mentor Angelo Grillo and the first opera librettist Ottavio Rinuccini. The second major section presents her pastoral tragicomedy Clorilli, one of the earliest secular dramatic works by a woman. It was apparently performed in the early 1590s at a Medici villa near Florence, before Grandduke Ferdinando I de' Medici, and his consort Christine of Lorraine, but now exists in an enigmatic Venetian manuscript. The third section presents Bernardi's

secular and religious verse, which engaged with new trends in lyric and poetry for music, and was set by various key composers across Italy. Praise for Drama, Poetry and Music in Late-Renaissance Italy 'The untold full story of a poet, playwright and musician whose life and works offer unique insights into the culture of late Renaissance court society. A must-have for scholars working at the intersection of poetry, music and theater. A treasure trove of new information and fresh perspectives. A remarkable achievement and a model of interdisciplinary collaboration.' Giuseppe Gerbino, Columbia 'Cox and Sampson continue their pioneering work on women writers in early modern Italy. Leonora Bernardi rose above the scandal of the abrupt ending of her marriage by her adroit handling of patronage networks and literary connections. Her Clorilli was an important contribution to the new genre of pastoral tragicomedy. She demands a truly interdisciplinary study, and this book is a model of its kind.' Tim Carter, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill