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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Proposals for metrical typology / Jean-Louis Aroui -- Part I: Isochronous metrics. Textsetting as constraint conflict / Bruce Hayes -- Comparing musical textsetting in French and in English songs / Francois Dell & John Halle -- Bavarian Zwiefache: investigating the interface between rhythm, metrics and song / Patrizia Noel Aziz Hanna & Robert Vetterle -- Natural versification in French and German counting-out rhymes / Andreas Dufter & Patrizia Noel Aziz Hanna -- Minimal chronometric forms: on the durational metrics of 2-2-stroke groups / Benoit de Cornulier -- Symmetry and children's poetry in sign languages / Marion Blondel & Christopher Miller -- Part II: Prosodic metrics. Pairs and triplets: a theory of metrical verse / Nigel Fabb & Morris Halle -- Generative linguistics and Arabic metrics / Bruno Paoli -- On the meter of Middle English alliterative verse / Donka Minkova -- The Russian Auden and the Russianness of Auden: meaning and form in a translation by Brodsky / Nila Friedberg -- Towards a universal definition of the caesura / Marc Dominicy & Mihai Nasta -- Metrical

alignment / Kristin Hanson -- Rephrasing line-end restrictions / Carlos Piera -- Part III: Para-metrical phenomena. Pif paf poof: Ablaut reduplication in children's counting-out rhymes / Andy Arleo -- The phonology of elision and metrical figures in Italian versification / Oreste Floquet -- Part IV: Macrostructural metrics. Convention and parody in the rhyming of Tristan Corbiere / Dominique Billy -- The metrics of Sephardic song / Jose Dominguez Caparros -- A rule of metrical uniformity in old Hungarian poetry / Ivan Horvath -- Metrical structure of the European sonnet / Jean-Louis Aroui.

Sommario/riassunto

Metrics is often defined as a discipline that concerns itself with the study of meters. In this volume the term is used in a broader sense that more or less coincides with the traditional notion of "versification". Understood this way, metrics is an eminently complex object that displays variation over time and in space, that concerns forms of a great variety and with different statuses (meters, rhymes, stanzas, prescribed forms, syllabification rules, nursery rhymes, slogans, musical textsetting, ablaut reduplication etc.), and that as a cultural manifestation is performed in a variety of ways (sung, chanted, spoken, read) that can have direct consequences on how it is structured. This profusion of forms is thought to correspond, at the level of perception, to a limited number of cognitive mechanisms that allow us to perceive and to represent regularly iterating forms. This volume proposes a relatively coherent overall vision by distinguishing four main families of metrical forms, each clearly independent of the others and amenable to separate typologies.
