

THE TROUBADOURS

LINDA M. PATERSON

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'Linda M. Paterson's fascinating, erudite book is an ideal guide to the troubadours, whose poetry is as influential as it is inventive. Setting the troubadours in their historical, linguistic and literary context, Paterson gives deft, vivid introductions to these extraordinarily talented men and women, and offers her reader a captivating view of their work – by turns enigmatic, lyrical and obscene.'

— Miranda Griffin, Associate Professor of Medieval French, University of Cambridge, and Fellow and Director of Studies, Murray Edwards College

Composing songs of love and war in medieval Western and Southern Europe, troubadours spanned the social spectrum from kings and nobles to penniless minstrels. This book tells the story of the lives and art of these remarkable poet-musicians, famed for their brilliant, innovative use of words and music, and the emotional power of their compositions. The troubadours' songs explored new ideas of love – the infamous 'courtly love' – as well as medieval perceptions of gender, class, war, chivalry, religion and the Crusades. Linda M. Paterson examines the troubadours' music and performance, as well as their legacy, balancing insightful quotations in English translation with the original texts to highlight the forms and sounds of the poetry.

Linda M. Paterson is Professor Emerita at the University of Warwick and has published widely on the troubadours and the crusades. Her books include *Singing the Crusades: French and Occitan Lyric Responses to the Crusading Movements, 1137–1336* (2018).



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