Contents

Acknowledgments ix
Abbreviations x

Introduction: On the German Contribution:
Giving Form to Freedom xiii

1. Friedrich Schiller’s Dramatic Philosophy: Freedom in Form 1
   I. On the Significance of Style 1
   II. Biographical Background 4
   III. Nature Speaks to Nature 9
   IV. Writing as a Free Gift 16
   V. Meaning in Motion 22
   VI. Elements of the Dramatic 28
   VII. Freestyle 38
   VIII. Poet or Philosopher? 41

2. An Aesthetics of Freedom: Schiller and the Living Gestalt 49
   I. Introduction: Schiller’s Breakthrough 49
   II. The Analogy of Form 51
   III. Form Overcoming Form 55
   IV. Manifest Freedom in Nature 60
   V. Heautonomy and Heteronomy 71
   VI. Freedom and Human Nature 76
   VII. Living Gestalt and Human Wholeness 85
   VIII. The Seriousness of Play 91
   IX. A Criticism and the Question of Contradiction 98
   X. Nobility or Bourgeois Aestheticism? 109

3. The Dark Roots of Life: Organic Form as a Symbol of Freedom in Schelling’s Naturphilosophie 111
   I. The Philosophy of the Future 111
   II. The Origins of Schelling’s Naturphilosophie 117
Contents

III. The Impoverishment of Nature 120
IV. The Impoverishment of Spirit 132
V. Naturphilosophie and the Place of the Organism 143
VI. Natural Freedom 159
VII. Freedom or Form? 164

4. From Organism to Incarnation: The Fall and Redemption of Finite Form in Schelling’s Late Philosophy 171
I. Ontological Freedom 171
II. The Fate of the Real in the Early Systems 177
III. The Positivity of Finite Freedom 188
IV. The Actuality of Evil and Love in History 197
V. Creation as Theogony 207

5. Freedom as the Concrete Form of Reason in Hegel’s Philosophy of Right 238
I. Introduction: Hegel’s Uniqueness 238
II. Preliminary Considerations 242
III. Rational Politics 248
IV. Political Reason 255
V. On the Meaning of Actuality 261
VI. Philosophical Sources 266
VII. The Importance of Being Finite 277
VIII. The Will as Concrete Freedom 283
IX. Conclusion 295

I. The Controversy Surrounding Hegel’s Conception of the State 301
II. Communal Spirit 305
III. Sittlichkeit as Social Form 320
IV. Freedom and Absolute Spirit 357

7. A Dramatic Conclusion: Opening Up Actual Possibility 373

Bibliography 385
Index 401