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
- VI. Love, Nature, and Freedom: A Final Assessment 226

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

6. "The 'I' That Is 'We' and the 'We' That Is 'I":

On the Sociality of Freedom in Hegel and Its Excesses 301

- 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