THE SOUNDSCAPE OF MODERNITY

ARCHITECTURAL ACOUSTICS AND THE CULTURE OF LISTENING IN AMERICA, 1900-1933

EMILY THOMPSON
# CONTENTS

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION: SOUND, MODERNITY, AND HISTORY

- The Origins of Modern Acoustics
- Introduction: Opening Night at Symphony Hall
- Acoustics and Architecture in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries
- Wallace Sabine and the Reverberation Formula
- Music and the Culture of Listening in Turn-of-the-Century America
- Conclusion: The Critics Speak

### CHAPTER 2: THE NEW ACOUSTICS, 1900-1933

- Introduction
- Sabine After Symphony Hall
- The Reverberations of "Reverberation"
- New Tools: The Origins of Modern Acoustics
- The New Acoustician
- Conclusion: Sabine Resounded

### CHAPTER 3: NOISE AND MODERN CULTURE, 1900-1933

- Introduction
- Noise Abatement as Acoustical Reform
- Noise and Modern Music
- Engineering Noise Abatement
- Conclusion: The Failure of Noise Abatement