Acknowledgments

Schelling and Nietzsche make their readers work for it. Extensive and sustained attention to their work allows one to listen in on an edifying monologue. This can be addicting: one more page, one more thought! Sometimes there is more truth in one page, even one line, of Schelling or Nietzsche than in some of the voluminous books of their contemporaries. After I felt I had come to a good understanding of their thought, I needed to turn those monologues into a dialogue. This was my greatest challenge yet, and this book is my very attempting of that: a dialogue on the topics of freedom, reason and religion between Schelling and Nietzsche. I hope to have done right by both Fritz’s.

That undertaking proved ambitious, perhaps even arrogant. This was especially so since I was also looking for a new way of doing metaphysics. I felt blessed by meetings with philosophers that suffered my arrogance and did not mind entertaining the possibility for a congenial encounter between Schelling and Nietzsche. I would be remiss if I did not mention my conversations with William Desmond, Henning Tegtmeyer, Agata Bielik-Robson, Jason Wirth, Jonathan Head and Yu Xia. Some of these chapters were presented at various conferences where they met with sporty opposition. I want to thank in particular the organizers and attendees of various conferences organized by the Friedrich Nietzsche Society, the UK Nietzsche Society and the Nietzsche Gesellschaft. I’ve had some of the most enlightening discussions on German idealism at the conference ‘The Philosophy of Negation: The Concept of the Negative in Classical German Philosophy’, organized by Gregory Moss. I am particularly grateful to Agata Bielik-Robson for hosting and engaging me at the University of Nottingham, where I managed to push this book forward like never before.

Reading such existentially-engaging authors has its inherent dangers. One loses oneself so very easily. Schelling and Nietzsche kept battling it out in my head long after I put down their books. The gentle grace and loving patience of dear Joleen unfailingly brought me back. I sing a song in her honor. “Let’s talk that sun into setting / Just need the sound of your voice / Need that calming and the comfort / Something to drown out the noise” (Defeater, ‘I don’t mind’).

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