Contents

Foreword, by L. Pearce Williams  vii
Acknowledgments  xi
Author's Note on Translations  xiii

1. Introduction  1
2. Humanism and the Implications of Rhetoric  9
3. Dialectic, Probabilism, and "Mitigated Scepticism"  23
4. Aristotelian Science and the Metaphysics of Mathematics  48
5. Saint Augustine and Universal Harmony  80
6. Mechanics, Music, and Harmony  117
7. Philosophical Systems, Essentialism, and the Language of Philosophy  170
8. Mersenne's Later Career: A Philosophical Agenda and Its Limitations  201
9. Summary and Conclusions  223

Bibliography  239
Index  261