



# Truth of My Songs: Poems of the Trobairitz

*By Claudia Keelan*

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Truth of My Songs is a translation of poems written by the women troubadours, known as trobairitz, whose poems disappeared after the Albigensian crusade of 1129. Together, the poems present a profound argument—for and against—the notion of fin' amor, the pure or fine notion of love, invented by their male counterparts. Tragic, raucous, vulgar, silly, and strange, the poems of the trobairitz prove that women's history has been recorded since the first woman raised her voice and lifted a pen.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

“While the troubadours have been the focus of considerable scholarly and aesthetic attention, their female counterparts are much less known, particularly among contemporary poets. *Truth of My Songs* opens a wide window onto the ways in which medieval women of this particular class and place managed power and desire—and also gives us an evanescent sense of a dramatically distant world, one with radically different logics, senses, and songs. Through Keelan’s translations and her historically evocative annotations, we get to re-inhabit it in vivid glimpses that defy time.”—Cole Swensen, co-editor of the Norton anthology *American Hybrid*

### **About the Author**

CLAUDIA KEELAN is the author of six books of poetry, most recently *O, Heart* (2014). Her honors include the Beatrice Hawley Award from Alice James Books and The Jerome Shestack Prize from the American Poetry Review. *Truth of My Songs: The Poems of the Trobairitz* is her first book of translation. She is Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she edits *Interim*.

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