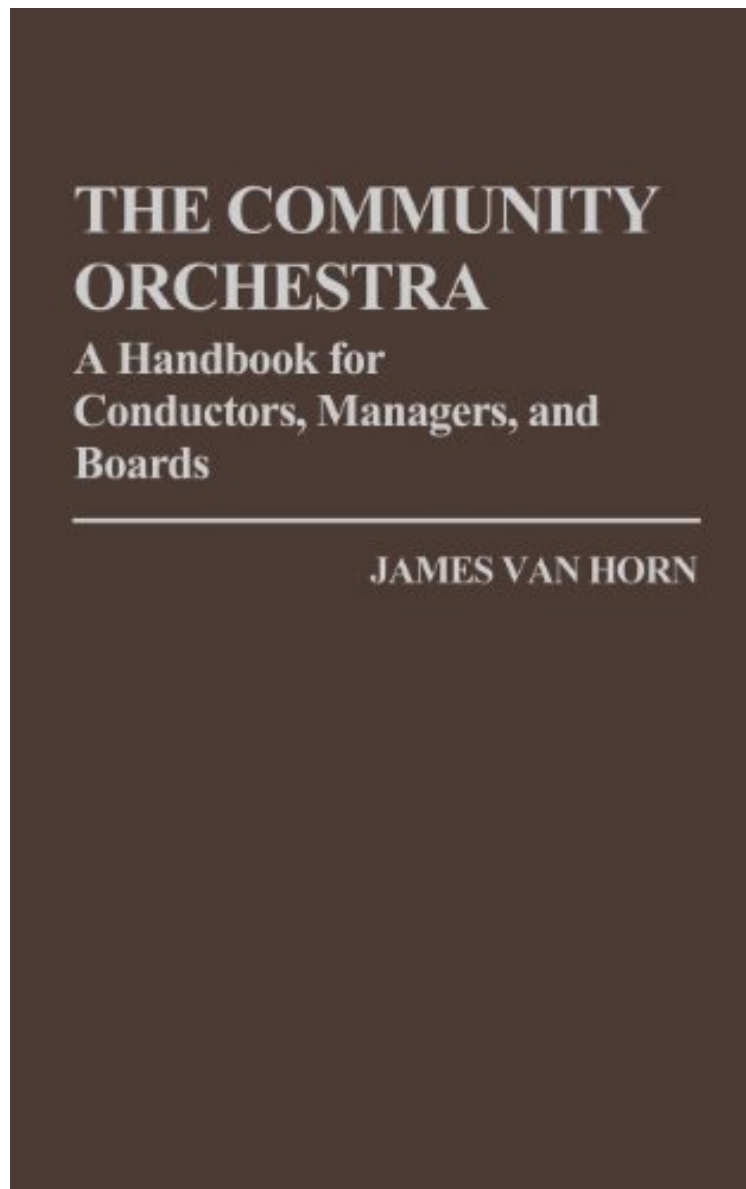


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The Community Orchestra: A Handbook for Conductors, Managers, and Boards

James Van Horn

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James Van Horn : The Community Orchestra: A Handbook for Conductors, Managers, and Boards before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Community Orchestra: A Handbook for Conductors, Managers, and Boards:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Full of advice that's obvious to anyone who's gone to one of their concerts. By Alonso del Arte Orchestra board members, if you read this book and remember only one thing, it should be this: the professional orchestras have played and recorded the core repertoire so much that for an amateur orchestra to play that same repertoire results only in unflattering comparisons to professional orchestras, no matter how well the amateur orchestra plays it (most people will of course be polite enough to keep these comparisons to themselves). The Detroit Medical Orchestra, for example, has actually played Beethoven's Ninth in concert. Why, oh why!? It was a decent and thoroughly competent performance, but compared to Karajan with the Berliner Philharmoniker, the DMO's performance is bland and forgettable. All that work, learning such difficult music, just to be dismissed because there are many brilliant performances by professional orchestras to choose from. You don't have to go too far outside the core repertoire to find music that audiences won't already know from recordings by professional orchestras, and which can show off the strengths of the amateur orchestra. Even Beethoven's Fourth would be a welcome change of pace. And there's the Jena Symphony by Friedrich Witt that was once thought to be by Beethoven. This book has lots of great advice besides repertoire, too.

"This practical, comprehensive, and well-organized book by an experienced conductor and educator is the very first to concentrate on this type of performing group and its special needs. . . . Valuable appendixes give IRS rulings, suggested auditioning material, addresses of publishers and rental libraries, and more." Library Journal

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