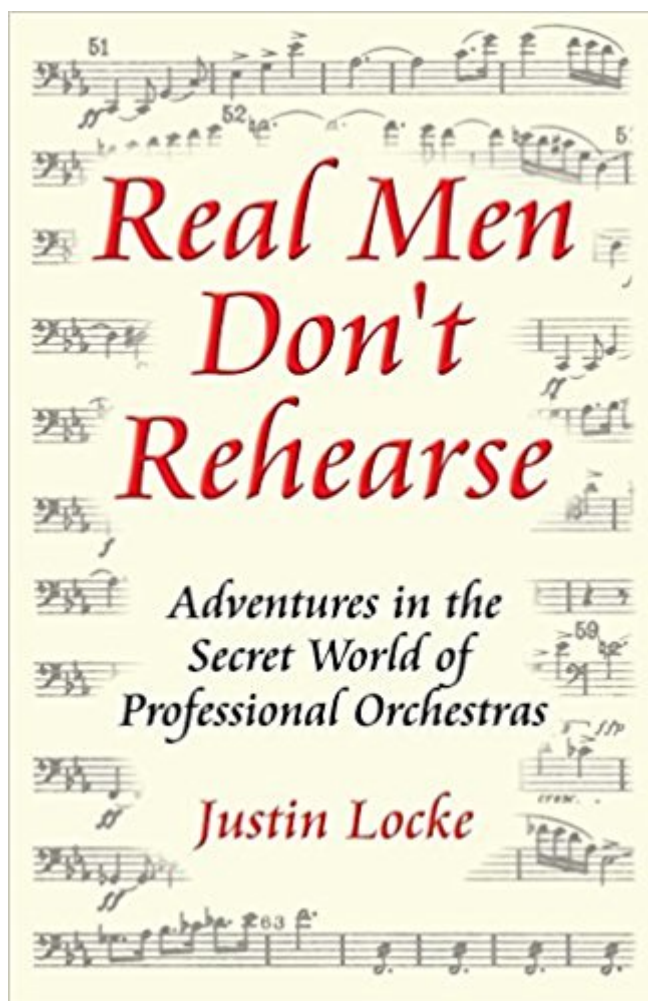


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Real Men Don't Rehearse: Adventures In The Secret World Of Professional Orchestras



Synopsis

"Real Men Don't Rehearse" is an amusing inside look at the usually hidden and secret world of professional orchestras. It is filled with dozens of humorous tales of musician antics and concert meltdowns. Outsiders are rarely allowed such access, but at last you can have your own personal tour of the mystical and magical realm of professional orchestras and the people who play in them. "Real Men Don't Rehearse" was written by Justin Locke, who spent 18 seasons as a professional freelance double bassist in Boston. He played with the Boston Symphony and the Boston Pops, as well as for ballets, operas, and Broadway shows. He is also well known in the symphonic world as the author of "Peter VS. the Wolf" and "The Phantom of the Orchestra," which are internationally acclaimed programs for orchestra family concerts. This is the perfect gift for your favorite music lover! This is a book no musical library should be without!

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Customer Reviews

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acclaimed programs for orchestra family concerts. This is the perfect gift for your favorite music lover! This is a book no musical library should be without!

This was a very easy read. What I appreciate is the humor that the author so deftly navigates between being a consummate professional and a wise cracking, sharp tongued player. I have been a full time singer for 15 years+ and I could relate to every single thing he said. I found myself laughing at every turn.

A delightful insider's look into the world of orchestral playing. Justin Locke contends that most of the time when great conductors are waving their arms and making faces, the orchestra is just playing the standard repertoire as it has been doing for years, paying little attention to the on podium histrionics. True, as a regular member of the Boston Pops under Fiedler he was not subjected to the careful preparation of more profound musicians like Solti and Kleiber, but there is a lot to be said that the modern conductor has been given much too much credit for what we hear. This book offers lots of wonderful anecdotes about the average hard-working musician's life. As Mrs. Loman once said, "Attention should be paid."

A thoughtful and revealing read about the inner workings of an orchestra and the minds of the players who make the music. This book rings true on so many levels and this is from a former violinist and current multi-cam live television director. When you get to that chapter you'll understand the significance.

All musicians should read this regardless of what genre of music proves dominant in their own life. This Boston Pops bass player rocks!

I am three years back to my bass after a 14-year hiatus (why, oh why did I ever stop?)...after having played from grade-thru-grad school. I returned to find electronic tuners, end pins that actually work, blogs just for bassists, and Justin Locke's wonderful book. I ordered it via , and it was fulfilled directly by Justin (complete with a nice note on the packing slip.) I squirreled it away for vacation, and gobbled it up last week in one wonderful day. The back of the book bears a warning not to read in "the quietude of a library, as you're apt to break out into uproarious laughter." I would amend that to "anywhere in public" since I frequently found myself hooting, belly-laughing, slapping my thighs, and laughing so hard I snorted...with tears streaming from my eyes. This is really bizarre looking on

a beach but I was having such a great time I did not care. Anyone who has played an instrument with a musical group - not just bassists - will delight in this book...but for bassists, it is a treasure. Justin's perspective on conductors (oooh, he played with Fiedler and on tour with Mancini), stand partners, spinning basses (wonder if I can bring to our community orchestra) and symphony management idiosyncrasies are priceless. My favorite passage though is about bassist attitude..."While I can only comment on the bass sections I played in, the attitude we always had could be summed up as, "this thing is pretty much impossible to play, we're doing the best we can, and we really don't want to be here anyway, so don't bother us with your prissy nitpicking."" Amen, Justin. After all, as he notes, "...since bass players are so rare, you don't have to be terribly good, or even all that motivated, to be wonderfully successful at it." What you do have to have is spirit, a sense of humor, and attitude, and Justin delivers. Buy the book, enjoy, and pass it on to your musician friends and your family (maybe they will finally understand you.)

Real Men Don't Rehearse is a superbly funny read. The author is a keen observer of people and events, and a great storyteller with a real gift for relating what he has seen to provide telling insights into the world of the working musician. The anecdotes certainly ring true based on my experience as a professional musician, though you don't have to be a professional musician to enjoy them. I have given copies of the book as gifts for students and friends, and they have inevitably loved it. Highly recommended!

In Real Men Don't Rehearse, Justin Locke gives us all an excellent view into the daily lives of the human beings that produce the music. So often, the musicians on stage appear as if they are placed in the cases next to their instrument, only to be activated prior to the next performance. The secret of their humanity is exposed in wonderful style in this gem. A quick read and full of the coping methods employed by musicians to shrug off the stresses of making sure that each entrance is precise, in tune, on time and fully compliant with all aspects of the interpretation of the conductor. As a musician, it was great to see that musicians from many different areas of the planet have developed similar coping strategies. This is a book that you will not put down until it is done and will not give away because you will want to read it again. The book is highly recommended for musicians of all types - and particularly for the listeners. You will approach your next concert with a fresh outlook, a knowing smile, and renewed interest at the beginning of the second half!

Justin Locke's Real Men Don't Rehearse is one of the great reading pleasures for those who love

classical music and the people who play and conduct it. He relates with great charm and aplomb one great story after another, forcing you at Vivace to turn the pages for more. There is even a story that includes a butane blowtorch--obviously, the prompt for a great film someday!

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