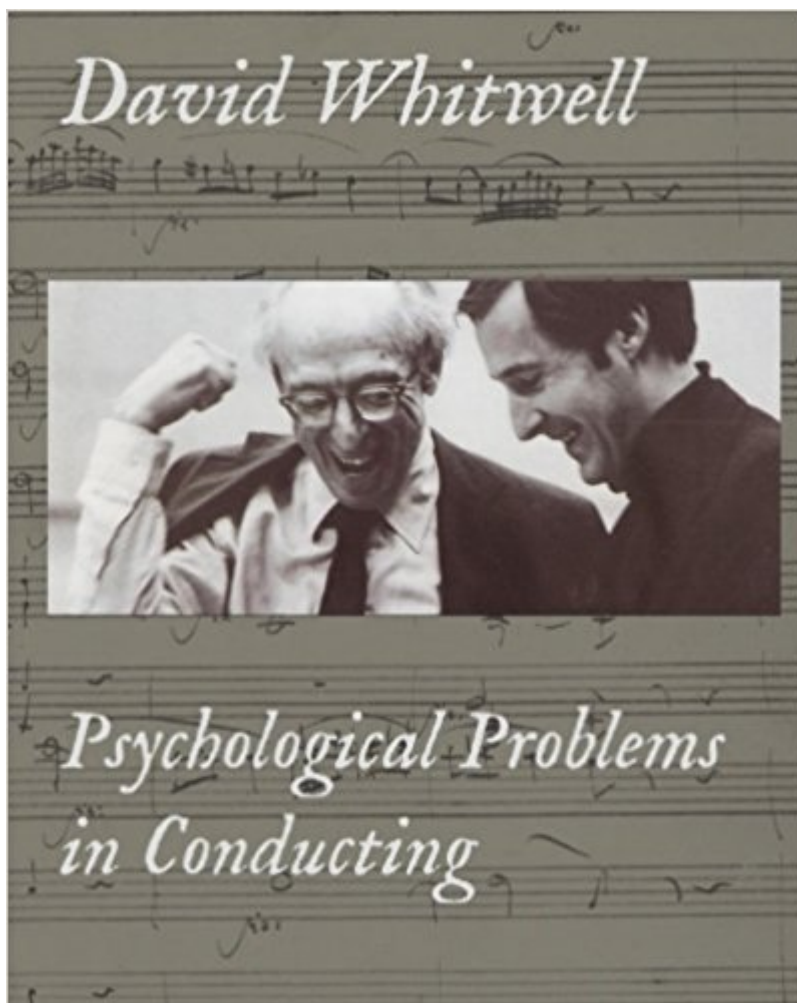




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Psychological Problems In Conducting



Synopsis

This conducting book is about the mind, not the baton. There is a great deal of misunderstanding about the role of the conductor. As a student he is often given to understand that all the answers are found on the score page and if he just studies that page enough he will understand the music. But the fact is there is no music in the score, only symbols of the grammar of music. This is the real meaning of Mahler's famous statement, "What is best in music is not to be found in the notes." What the conductor really contributes is to bring to the rehearsal everything which is not in the score. But is this taught in music schools? Similarly, the student is given to understand that great importance lies in his ability to give clear, precise beats with the baton. But every musician, even young school musicians, can count to four. Any emphasis on this mechanical process will produce an inverse relationship to the important things in music. In fact, almost all fine conductors, violinists, pianists, and singers pretty much ignore the arithmetic and instead follow Beethoven's definition that it is feeling which determines tempo. But is this taught in music schools? The important secrets of music all exist in the experiential hemisphere of our brain, but this part of the brain is mute, it cannot write or speak. How can the conductor then learn these secrets and how can he communicate them to the orchestra? For the conductor who aspires to be more than a routine time-beater, perhaps this book is the place to begin.

Book Information

Paperback: 78 pages

Publisher: Whitwell Books (January 5, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1936512874

ISBN-13: 978-1936512874

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #248,326 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Conducting

Customer Reviews

Dr. David Whitwell is a graduate (with distinction) of the University of Michigan and the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. (Ph.D., Musicology, Distinguished Alumni

Award, 2000) and has studied conducting with Eugene Ormandy and at the Akademie für Musik, Vienna. Dr. Whitwell has been a guest professor in one hundred different universities and conservatories throughout the United States and in twenty-three foreign countries (most recently in China, in an elite school housed in the Forbidden City). Guest conducting experiences have included the Philadelphia Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra, the Czech Radio Orchestras of Brno and Bratislava, The National Youth Orchestra of Israel, as well as resident wind ensembles in Russia, Israel, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, England, Wales, The Netherlands, Portugal, Peru, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Canada and the United States. Dr. Whitwell's publications include more than 127 articles on wind literature including publications in Music and Letters (London), the London Musical Times, the Mozart-Jahrbuch (Salzburg), and fifty books, among which is his thirteen-volume History and Literature of the Wind Band and Wind Ensemble and an eight-volume series on Aesthetics in Music. In addition to numerous modern editions of early wind band music his original compositions include five symphonies.

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