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Julie Ayer

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MADE LABOR HISTORY

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Julie Ayer : More than Meets the Ear: How Symphony Musicians Made Labor History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised More than Meets the Ear: How Symphony Musicians Made Labor History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Minnesota Orchestra Musician wrote this
By Dorion Macek
Our Minnesota Orchestra Musicians have been "locked out" for over 16 months by a Board of 80 wealthy people from our community who refuse to negotiate with Musicians. They insist on a 33% cut in salary and bragged to the press that they had reduced - to 25% plus. The book truly well written and fascinating. Julie, the author, has documented all of her research. It is the story of how musicians were treated a hundred years ago and the struggle for them to establish a Union so Musicians could not be kicked out. The amazing part of this documentation is that most of the US Musicians did not get unionized until the 60's 70s. I loved the book and learned a lot.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An excellent job!
By Marcos
The book is about a beautiful history of a great "esprit de corps" of the USA musicians who discovered that they were the only power to get better conditions of work. Ms. Ayer is a violinist, married with another one and she writes from the inside of the orchestras (Minneapolis, after Minnesota). An example of perseverance and ethics. All musicians must read this book and mainly the Brazilians and Southamerican ones, who met themselves still in a stage where the glamour or the vanities are more important than the good conditions of work. All this struggle is ICSOM's history since its foundation in 1962. A true life lesson.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History of musicians and the labor movement
By Ann McNally
As a violinist in the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, I heard this author speak to a group of representatives of the Regional Orchestra Players Association or ROPA in her hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota and wanted more information about the impact that symphony musicians have made in the Labor Movement. This book is a good way to learn about that topic!

More Than Meets the Ear is the story of a grassroots movement that transformed labor relations and the professional lives of U.S. and Canadian symphony musicians. The struggles and accomplishments experienced by many visionary leaders of the '50s, '60s, and '70s offer inspiration to new generations of musicians, students, teachers, music lovers, labor historians, and orchestra administrators. Written from the perspective of a professional orchestra musician who has experience in committee activity and labor negotiations, More Than Meets the Ear is an unprecedented overview of the profound effect the musician's labor movement has had on the profession. Minnesota Orchestra case history documents the growth of a major American orchestra in dramatic detail and anecdotes.

"Ayer writes with an insider's knowledge, experience and commitment." -Boston Sunday Globe, June 18, 2006
"I am very impressed by the thoroughness of Ayer's research...Whether they are musicians, administrators, or just music lovers who support orchestras, this history is very important to all concerned with this art form." - Henry Fogel, former Chicago Symphony Orchestra president
"Julie Ayer has found an important and fascinating story to tell, and her account is wonderfully engaging." - Michael Steinberg, distinguished author and music critic
"Ayer provides an unprecedented overview of the profound effect the musician's labor movement has had on the profession." - International Musician, January 2006
About the Author
Julie Ayer was assistant principal second violinist with the Minnesota Orchestra, retiring in 2012. She is a founding member of the Hill House Chamber Players, based in St. Paul, now in its 31st season. She organized and exchanged with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, and has organized numerous benefit concerts throughout the Twin Cities, most notably Symphony for Survival in 1985. She was active in Minnesota Orchestra "Adopt-A-School" program for many years. She performed with the Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, featured as Minnesota Orchestra soloist, in Sommerfest chamber concerts, Oregon Bach Festival, and is a former ICSOM representative. She attended the Iowa Writers Workshops, has presented workshops and spoken to a variety of groups, including labor lawyers, music students and colleagues.