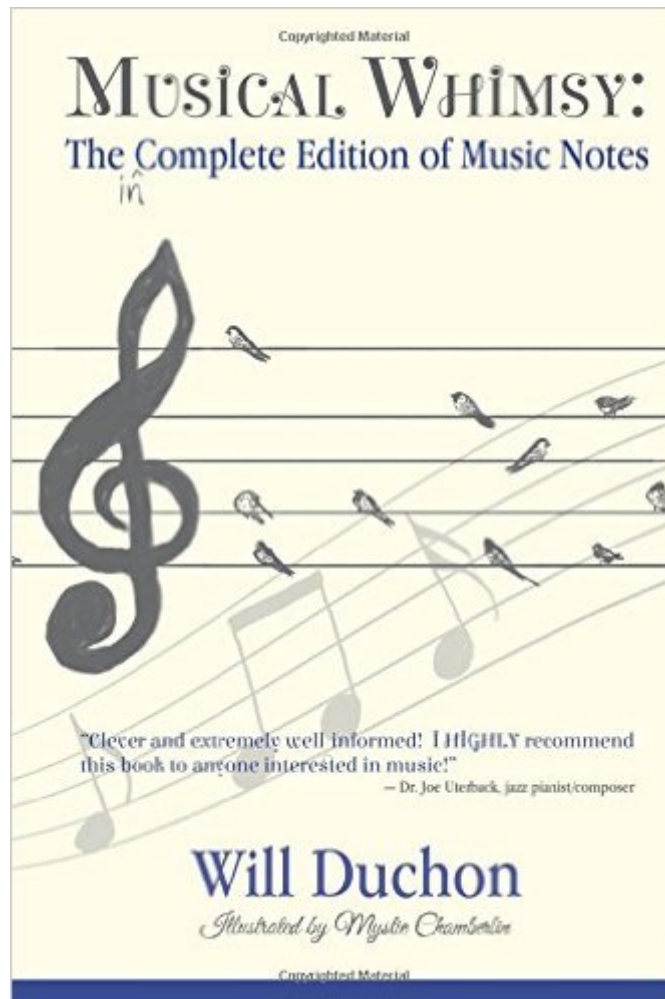


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Musical Whimsy: The Incomplete Edition Of Music Notes



Synopsis

Parish meets parody in Will Duchon's *Musical Whimsy: The Incomplete Edition of Music Notes*, a fun and fanciful review of the musical repertoire and social scene of a small town New England church. In Connecticut, the land of steady habits, the little white colonial church on the green is an iconic town landmark and a social center with its own quirky traditions and personalities. As Director of Music at an historic Congregational church, Duchon plans, prepares, and presents the choral and keyboard music that accompanies Sunday services. Most weeks, the printed church bulletin includes *Will's Music Notes* and short descriptions to inform the spiritual experience with background and commentary on the day's musical selections. The *Music Notes* often shift unpredictably and inexplicably from history to fictional anecdotes peopled by a cast of local characters like a Yankee version of Lake Wobegon. Whether you read it cover to cover, or keep it in a place where you like to read a few pages at a time, *Musical Whimsy: The Incomplete Edition of Music Notes* makes church music and musicians accessible, sometimes absurd, and unfailingly entertaining. — Dave Walker, Monroe, CT

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book took me by surprise. The author, a friend, sent me a copy. I know Will Duchon as the consummate Romantic pianist, and highly recommend his CDs to you. But he has another career as well, as music director at a small-town church; and this book is a compilation of the notes he has written for the weekly service bulletin describing the choir selections. So I took up reading it as a friendly duty, not expecting to be rolling in the aisle as I subsequently was. I should have known,

though, for yet another of Duchonâ€™s musical incarnations is as a classical DJ at a local radio station; and he begins the email announcement of each weekâ€™s program with some drollery, often stinging. Still, to be displaying his wicked wit in church â€“ that is something else entirely. And, frankly, having read this book, I donâ€™t know how he gets away with it! Granted, his wickedness is mild. Although just as silly, it is not truly nasty like, say, Terry Southernâ€™s âœ“The Magic Christianâ€• (which I also, however, recommend). Nevertheless, it is subversive indeed, for I just canâ€™t imagine how any member of Duchonâ€™s choir keeps a straight face when trying to sing after reading Duchonâ€™s commentary. Here is the effect the book had on me. For the first number of pages I was mildly amused, but no great shakes. But by the third time David Bailey (apparently the name of an actual church member being borrowed for Duchonâ€™s devilry) is quoted in the local newspaper claiming that his grandfather was the actual composer of the hymn in question, I was in tears of laughter. From that point on I was caught up in the silliness and was laughing even in anticipation, just as one does when watching a frenetic performance of Noises Off or hearing Professor Irwin Corey exclaim âœ“However!â€• So if you would like to escape the worldâ€™s cares for an hour or two by indulging in some erudite but hilarious silliness, this is a book you will want to read.

A well-written and delightful book full of wit and whimsy. Erudite and very entertaining. Highly recommended for those who believe that classical music commentary and high-brow culture don't need to be dry and deadly.

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