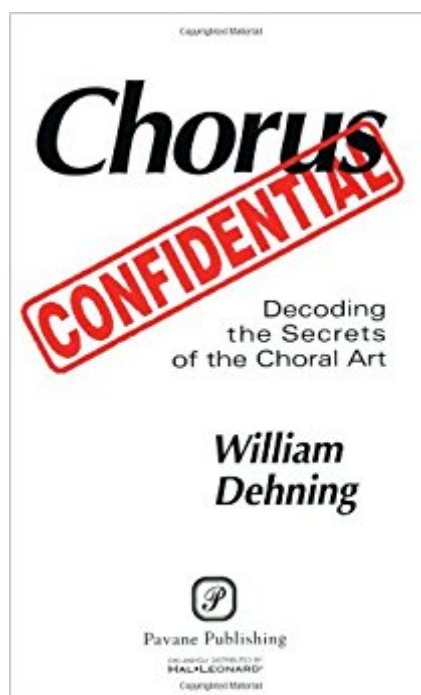


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# Chorus Confidential



## Synopsis

Dr. William Dehning has been the head of the Choral Department at University of Southern California since 1992. His choirs have wowed audiences worldwide and at the ACDA National Convention. Employing his no-nonsense tone, dry wit and deep passion, he tells all that is good and all that should be changed in the world of choral conducting. Never has so much valuable information been included with so much personality. Laugh and learn with this spectacular book!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This volume is written in plain english so that amateur and professional alike can benefit. Dehning's colorful storytelling and instruction in the basics makes this much more than a "conductor's manual." Those who read it should remember that plain english and clear gesture is the way to communicate with 90% of choirs. Musicians who are incapable of relating to the average person will have limited success. Get a real job, stay there for awhile (as did Dehning) and only then venture into the world of choral conducting. You'll find your singers responding and relating to you. This will result in a much better sound, and a happier choir!

Dr. Dehning's book includes wonderful recommendations for all types of ensembles. Don't let the title fool you, band directors. You'll get a lot out of it!

A great, funny, witty self-deprecating book. Bill is fantastic in person, and ALMOST as enjoyable AND helpful in print. I've given this book as a graduation present to my conducting students for

several years now. Timeless, practical wisdom on our choral art. There are books that are more "academic," there are books that are more technical and exhaustive, but none as real, as funny, as practical, and as helpful. I can't wait for a sequel . . . get on it, Bill!

My brother is a music teacher and wanted this book for Christmas, so I went to Barnes and Noble online and looked, and then, as an after-thought, figured I would check on before purchasing - it was cheaper here on , as were the other music books he asked for. He got a lot out of the book and I got a lower price than I would have....Thanks!

This book gives great insight into the choral director, or any director, and their point of view. This with classes, self-improvement, and with outlook. Great anecdotes and good writing. My choral prof in grad school uses this book. You can't go wrong with it.

This is a great book, an invitation to the world of the music conductor. It includes funny little stories and anecdotes, but practical advice, and easy to read.

This is an easy read, but the author sounds like a prideful, arrogant, know-it-all. He clearly finds himself "the authority" on all things choral, even though it was obvious that he wasn't nearly as wonderful as he thought he was. Not to mention, my very own professors studied under him, so I can speak with some authority on the matter. No offense intended, just an honest review.

This is a great book for choral conductors and works well for both beginners and experts. William Dehning teaches at the University of Southern California, and is an accomplished conductor. This book contains his wisdom, advice, and plenty of self-deprecating humor. Dehning begins with a chapter entitled "Who," which focuses on what it takes to be a good choral conductor. He then breaks his book up into chapters such as The Score, The Craft, The Instrument, The Ensemble, The Process, Them, and Us. Dehning makes good points about what we should be doing (namely, conducting and analyzing the score), including a foolproof method for score analysis. His chapters about the instrument and the choral ensemble are wonderful examples of sound voice pedagogy, aspects of choral blend, and even performance formations. Some of my favorite parts were tips on how to sing melismas and fugue sections better, and also issues about how to run a good rehearsal (most choral conductors talk WAY too much). While some (and perhaps most) will love it, Dehning's valuable handbook is couched in a writing style which is unceremonious, too much so at times.

Dehning's humor is indisputably successful at bringing the master down off the pedestal, but I found his jokes, mostly at his expense to be occasionally distracting from great advice. Beginners won't mind, but some conducting elitists might chaff a bit. Also, there are some great things in the appendix, but Dehning avoids adding a bibliography. That's really all I could find wrong with the book. I think this book can be a great pedagogical tool to conducting students of all ages and backgrounds.

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