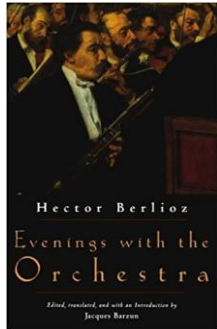


Here's the complete list of summer reads recommended by ACMP members.

Summer 2018

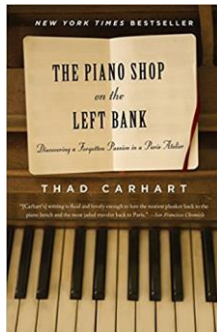
Most recommendations available where books are sold – check your library for out-of-print reads.



Evenings with the Orchestra by Hector Berlioz, translated by Jacques Barzun (University of Chicago Press, 1999).

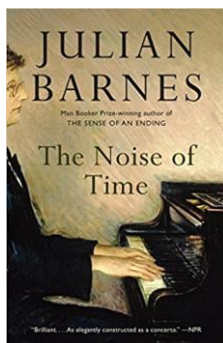
A perennial favorite of mine is *Evenings with the Orchestra* by Hector Berlioz. Berlioz was a consummate music critic and teller of tales, and the translation into English by Jacques Barzun has great notes and introduction. It was published in 1956 by Alfred A. Knopf.

Recommendation by Katy Morgan.



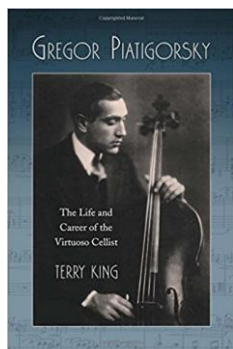
The Piano Shop on the Left Bank: Discovering a Forgotten Passion in a Paris Atelier by Thaddeus Carhart (Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2002).

Recommendation by Gail Greenspan.



The Noise of Time by Julian Barnes (Vintage International, 2017).

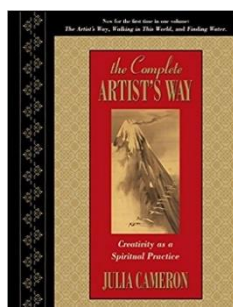
Recommendation by Gail Greenspan.



Gregory Piatigorsky: The Life and Career of the Virtuoso Cellist by Terry King (McFarland, 2010).

This definitive biography chronicles a musical legend's tempestuous life and career. Piatigorsky began his career on second hand instruments, escaping the Russian Revolution to play with the Warsaw Philharmonic, eventually making his way to the United States during World War II.

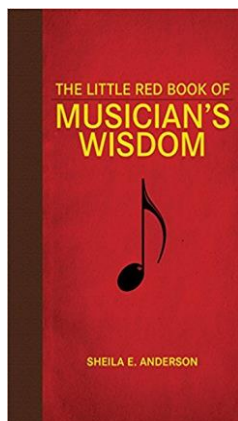
Recommendation by Susan B. Smith.



The Complete Artist's Way: Creativity as a Spiritual Practice by Julia Cameron (Tarcher/Penguin 2007).

Cameron encourages the creativity in all of us and gives us concrete suggestions for developing our artistic selves, overcoming self-criticism to be "perfect" or "famous" as an artist or not try at all. She gives you the 12 steps to recovering the creative self, lost after childhood and a life filled with practical effort at work, family responsibility and repression of the artistic self.

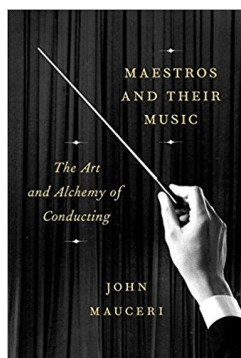
Recommendation by Susan B. Smith.



The Little Red Book of Musician's Wisdom by Sheila E. Anderson (Skyhorse Publishing, 2012).

This wonderful collection of quotes on music by famous musicians and famous people sets forth views of life as seen through the creative prism of music. Little gems include "Music is the shorthand of emotion" –Leo Tolstoy, "If music is eccentric, I have to be. Anybody talented in any way-they're called eccentric" – Thelonious Monk, "One good thing about music: When it hits you, you feel no pain" - T.J. Christofore.

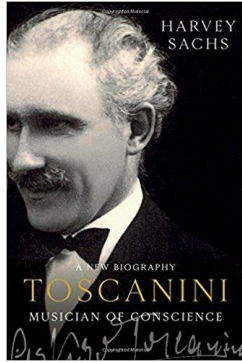
Recommendation by Susan B. Smith.



Maestros and their Music: The Art and Alchemy of Conducting by John Mauceri (Knopf, 2017).

This book is intended to provide insight into the art and business of conducting. While musicians may find it overly basic at times, it's filled with interesting anecdotes.

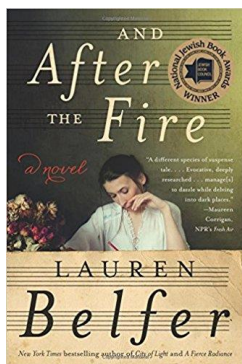
Recommendation by Lisa Norton.



Toscanini: Musician of Conscience by Harvey Sachs (Liveright, 2017).

A lengthy and detailed account of the life and career of Arturo Toscanini, all placed into historical context. I learned a lot about Toscanini as a musician and social activist.

Recommendation by Lisa Norton.



And After the Fire: A Novel by Lauren Belfer (Harper Perennial, 2017)

A well-researched creative piece centered on a fictional lost and found cantata by J.S. Bach. A good mystery, and along the way I learned some interesting tidbits about the Mendelssohn family.

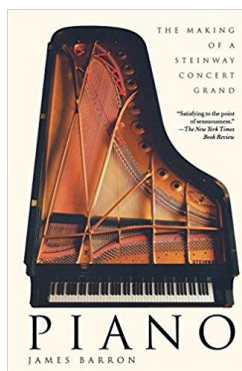
Recommendation by Lisa Norton.



Friends and Fiddlers by Catherine Drinker Bowen (Literary Licensing, 2011).

An old personal favorite; I knew and played with several of the author's friends. Aside from expensive hardcover editions, it seems to be available only in Kindle – but it's a delight.

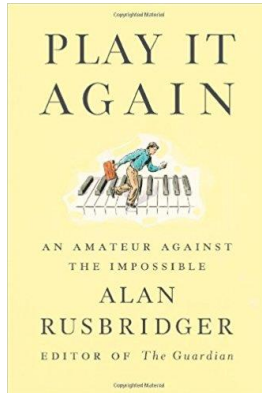
Recommendation by Linda Plaut.



Piano: The Making of a Steinway Concert Grand by James Barron (Times Books, 2007).

The story of pianos and how they are made, told in a highly engaging manner.

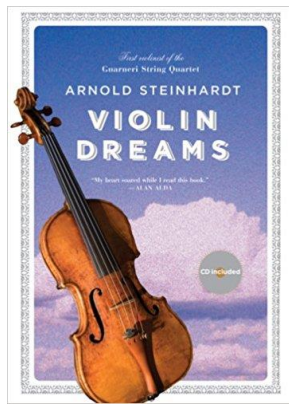
Recommendation by Jeff Cohlberg.



Play it Again: An Amateur Against the Impossible by Alan Rusbridger. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013).

A delightful account of the year the editor of the Guardian spent learning to play Chopin's G Minor Ballade, with advice from many of the famous people he knows.

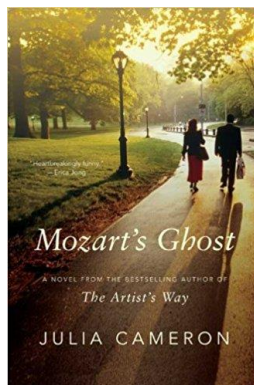
Recommendation by Jeff Cohlberg.



Violin Dreams by Arnold Steinhardt (Mariner Books, 2008).

The irresistibly charming violinist of the Guarneri Quartet tells the history of this love affair with violins.

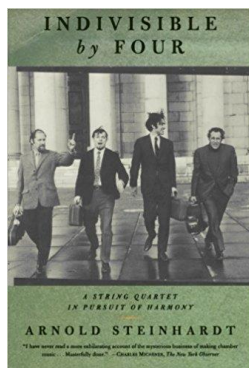
Recommendation by Jeff Cohlberg.



Mozart's Ghost: A Novel by Julia Cameron (Thomas Dunne Books, 2008).

Meet Anna, a thirty-something Midwesterner living alone in New York City. A schoolteacher by day, she is a medium by night. Secretive and guarded, Anna leads a double life until she meets Edward, and before long Mozart's Ghost makes a pest of himself to Anna, playing matchmaker with unpredictable results.

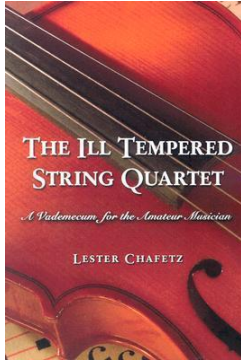
Recommendation by Marcha Johnson.



Indivisible by Four by Arnold Steinhardt of the Guarneri Quartet (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000).

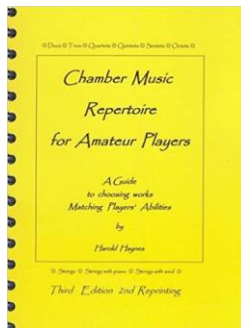
Very nice insights in the life of four professionals that played over 30 years together.

Recommendation by Henri van den Hombergh.



The Ill Tempered String Quartet by Lester Chafetz (McFarland & Co. 2005).

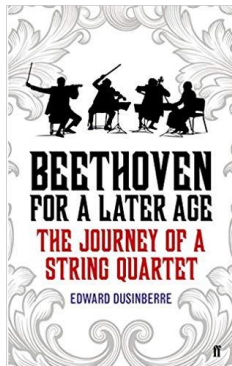
Recommendation by Henri van den Hombergh.



Chamber Music Repertoire for Amateur Players - A Guide to choosing works Matching Players' Abilities by Harold Haynes (Harold Haynes, 2006).

This treasure trove of information lists and rates various genres (string quartet, chamber works with piano, chamber works with winds) with an overall recommendation and difficulty by part. It also lists chamber works by composer and instrumentation.

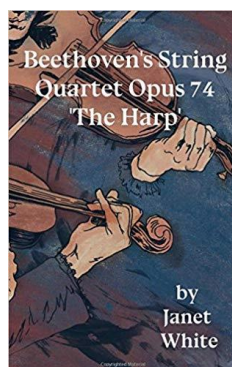
Recommendation by Janet White.



Beethoven for a Later Age by Ed Dusingberre (Faber & Faber Classical Music & Dance, 2016).

The First Violinist in the Takacs Quartet recounts a combination of memoirs of his time in the quartet and dissects some of the Beethoven quartets.

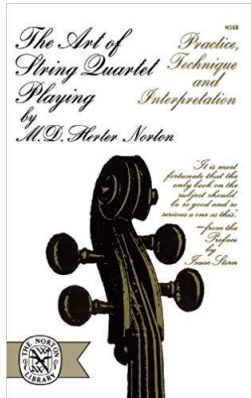
Recommendation by Sue Lauscher.



Beethoven's String Quartet Opus 74 "The Harp" by Janet White (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2008).

A fun and interesting read for the summer. In this fictional novel centered around the original manuscript of Opus 74, the second violinist of "the London Quartet" thinks stealing the manuscript could help him attain fame, pay his debts and win the heart of his quartet's new cellist.

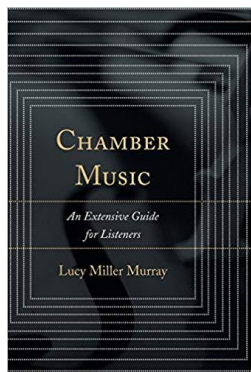
Recommendation by Anne Prescott.



The Art of String Quartet Playing: Practice, Technique, and Interpretation by M. D. Herter Norton (W.W. Norton & Co., 1966).

This basic guide includes exercises for nonprofessional players who want to rehearse regularly with their group.

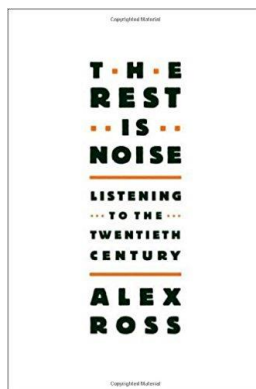
Recommendation by David Yang.



Chamber Music: An Extensive Guide for Listeners by Lucy Miller Murray (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers).

A comprehensive book of professional program notes by an ACMP member.

Recommendation by David Yang.



The Rest is Noise: Listening to the Twentieth Century by Alex Ross (Picador, 2008).

This terrific New Yorker writer has essays on all kinds of classical music. Really terrific reading.

Recommendation by David Yang.

Additional recommendations by Jeff Cohlberg:

Orfeo by Richard Powers (Norton 2014).

A wonderful novel about a struggling contemporary composer.

Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid by Daniel Dennett (Vintage, 1999).

A classic exploration by the philosopher of consciousness that includes some fascinating descriptions of Bach's music and its connection to the logical/mathematical ideas of Gödel.

The Great Pianists by Harold C. Schonberg (Simon & Schuster 1987).

The great music critic of the New York Times tells the history of the great pianists, many of whom he heard and knew.

The Time of Our Singing by Richard Powers (Picador 2004).

A novel about a family of singers set during the civil rights movement, starting with Marian Anderson's concert at the Lincoln Memorial. Imperfect, but with some thrilling writing about music and singing.

Shostakovich: A Life Remembered by Elizabeth Wilson (Princeton 2006).

My favorite of the many books on Shostakovich. This one is composed of the memories of his close associates.

Secret Lives of Great Composers: What Your Teachers Never Told You about the World's Musical Masters by Elizabeth Lunday (Quirk 2009).

An amusing account of all the juicy bits of famous composers' lives.

The Country Blues by Samuel Charters (Da Capo 1975).

A bit outside the purview of classical music, but I had to mention this very special book, a pioneering 1959 study of the origin of the blues and the lives of the great bluesmen that helped usher in the blues revival of the 1960's.

Additional recommendations by David Yang:

Quartet Memoirs:

Con Brio: Four Russians Called the Budapest String Quartet by Nat Brandt (iUniverse, 2000).

Married to the Amadeus: Life with a String Quartet by Muriel Nissel (Giles de la Mare Publishers, 2012) (Kindle Edition)

Out of print – check your library for print copies or online for a Kindle Edition.

Stormy Applause: Making Music in a Worker's State by Rostislav Dubinsky (Hill and Wang, 1989).

Quartet: A Profile of the Guarneri by Helen Drees Ruttencutter (Lippincott & Crowell, 1980).

Quartet Technique:

The Art of Quartet Playing: The Guarneri Quartet in Conversation with David Blum by David Blum (Cornell University Press, 1987).

Ensemble: A Rehearsal Guide to Thirty Great Works of Chamber Music by Abram Loft (Amadeus Press, 1992).

Chamber music repertoire lists:

Wind Chamber Music: Winds with Piano and Woodwind Quintets: An Annotated Guide by Barbera Secrist-Schmedes (Scarecrow Press, 1996).

Kammermusik-Katalog by Wilhelm Altmann

Out of print – Check your library. David's copy was published in 1931.

Chamber Music by Homer Ulrich (Columbia University Press, 1966).

A history of chamber music.

Out of print – Check your library.

Misc. books on music:

Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad by M.T. Anderson (Candlewick, 2015).

Bartok by Kenneth Chalmers (Phaidon Press, 2008).

A very readable biography of Bartok that also puts him in historical context.

Mozart: A Life by Maynard Solomon (Harper Perennial, 2005).

Beethoven: Revised Edition by Maynard Solomon (Harper Perennial, 2001).

The Maynard Solomon books on Beethoven and Mozart are both excellent and should be required reading!

Piano Notes: The World of a Pianist by Charles Rosen (Free Press, 2004).

Excellent and very readable book even for non-pianists (unlike Rosen's other writings) on his career as a professional musician.