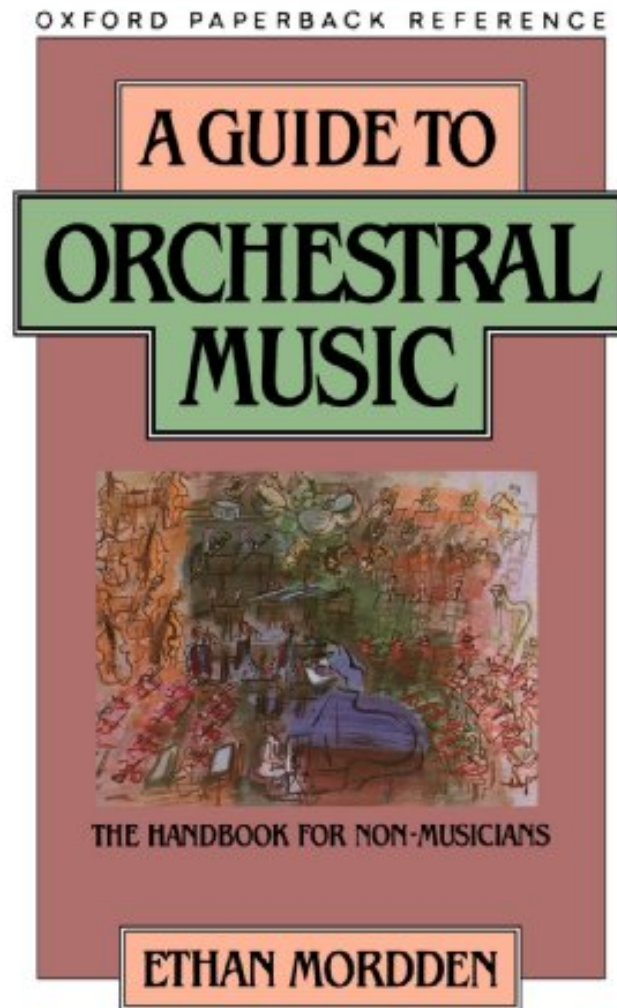


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for, as the title states, non-musicians. It will be an enjoyable read for all those who love classical music and wish to understand it more fully. Truly a classic in itself !3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great BookBy rmitlJust what I was looking for. Covers the orchestral music subject very well. Recommended by a friend who has studied music.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good Book For The Novice And Expert Alike.By DmitriI love the way this book is laid out. First Mordden tells some of the technical stuff to get it out of the way. Then in the composer section he lists each composer with their important works for orchestra. Each work is given it's own snippet review. Typically a review for one work will last anywhere from one paragraph to no more than a page. Of course he can't include every orchestral work ever composed... just highlights. The Baroque has a very slim offering granted that. The era that is really covered is from about 1750 on up with a few exceptions of Bach, Vivaldi, and Handel. This book was printed in 1980, but the content is fairly modern if conservative up till that point. Mordden's own view of classical music while not perfect with my own is close enough to be of help to the beginner. In fact I have been listening to classical music for 30 years and I still find it a helpful resource.

Relaxed and accessible in style, this authoritative guide is the first symphony handbook for non-musicians. The book begins with a general introduction to the symphony and short pieces on the orchestra and musical styles. Mordden goes on to describe, chronologically, over 700 pieces--from Vivaldi to twentieth-century composers. Further aids to the reader include two lists of repertory builders and a glossary of musical terms. "Easy and pleasurable to read...a genuinely useful guide for the music lover who has not had a musical education but loves concert music."--John Barkham Reviews

"The text is not only easy to read, but it is enlightening on form, style, and other essentials that will stimulate the attentive reader into a better grasp of what the composer intended to express and how well he expressed it. This is a genuinely useful guide for the music lover who has not had a musical education but loves concert music."--John Barkham sFrom the Back CoverRelaxed and accessible in style, this is the first symphony handbook written especially for the beginning listener. More comprehensive than any other symphony guide--yet more compact--it describes for the radio buff, record collector, and sometime concertgoer over seven hundred orchestral pieces, including symphonies, concertos, suites, tone poems, ballets, and overtures.