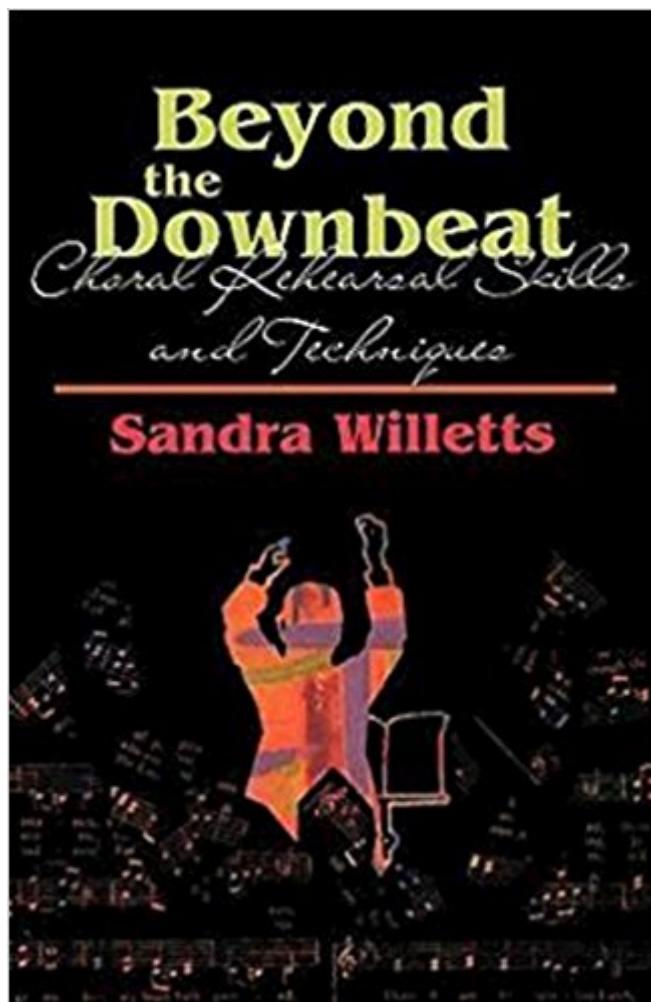


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# Beyond The Downbeat: Choral Rehearsal Skills And Techniques



## **Synopsis**

Easy to read, understand, and apply, the material in Beyond the Downbeat covers many important aspects of choral leadership beyond conducting. The material is practical for choirs of any size and leaders at any level of training. Key Benefits: • Helps choral directors make their choirs sound more artistically beautiful • Provides guidelines about the use of diction and related areas of vocal technique and improvement • Provides useful choral warm-up exercises and other practical helps for any choral group

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

SANDRA WILLETT is Professor of Choral Conducting at the University of Alabama School of Music in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She leads many workshops in choral conducting technique.

I studied with Sandra Willetts in graduate school 30 years ago. All the knowledge in this book was given to her students to prepare them for their choral conducting careers. It is given in such a way that it will stick with you forever. It is so wonderful to see it collected in a book for others.

Quality Product, Delivered Promptly, Thanks !

The book was in fine condition! I wasn't expecting the highlighted portions, but that won't affect the

reading at all! Great purchase!

Sandra Willetts has an impressive résumé and wrote an earlier book on choral conducting, so I had higher expectations for this text on choral rehearsal skills and techniques. While there is some useful information here, I did not find as much as I had hoped. Chapter One covers vocal/choral warm-ups. Other chapters examine diction, singing in Latin, intonation problems, count-singing, score study, as well as other subjects. This book does have some helpful sections. The concept of eventually making the choir's warm-ups optional and starting ten minutes before rehearsal is a good time saver. I also like that Willetts emphasizes count-singing, score study, and meticulous rehearsal planning. There are many chapters, however, which are of little or no value. Willetts wastes space covering the basics of singing in Latin (this can be found in many places) and spends 15 pages discussing the myriad sectional formations. While this can affect the sound, many aspects of choral rehearsal are much more vital. Willetts' book may be helpful to the novice choral conductor with little experience, but I would actually recommend other books first (by John Bertalot and William Dehning). More experienced conductors will find less benefit in *Beyond the Downbeat*.

Highly recommend this book for anyone needing some refresher material in rehearsal techniques. Easy to read, follow and understand, Willettes gives practical examples that can be incorporated into your routine very easily. Good reference material.

This treatise seems more geared to a school situation with trained singers, however the discussions about intonation and diction are excellent. If your chorus is a community group, just realize that she's writing for school choruses.

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