

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A  
GOOD CONDUCTOR  
AND A  
GREAT CONDUCTOR

*Presented by*

H. ROBERT REYNOLDS

*and*

DORIS DOYON



GIA Publications, Inc.

## TIMELINE OF LIFE AND CAREER

- 1934 Born to Ethel and H. Earl Reynolds
- 1952 Graduated from Meadville High School
- 1956 Graduated from University of Michigan, Bachelor of Music Education
- 1956 Director of Bands, Onsted Community Schools, Onsted, MI
- 1958 Graduated from University of Michigan, Master of Music in Wind Instruments
- 1958 Director of Bands, Anaheim High School, Anaheim, CA
- 1962 Assistant Director of Bands, Director of Bands, Long Beach State, Long Beach, CA
- 1968 Director of Bands, University of Wisconsin–Madison
- 1975 Director of Bands, University of Michigan
- 2001 Retired from the University of Michigan
- 2001 Principal Conductor of Wind Ensemble, University of Southern California
- 2020 Retired from the University of Southern California

## CONTRIBUTING MUSICIANS

### **William Caballero**

Principal Horn, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

### **Rachel Childers\***

Second Horn, Boston Symphony Orchestra

### **Cynthia Koledo DeAlmeida\***

Principal Oboe, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

### **John Ferrillo**

Principal Oboe, Boston Symphony Orchestra

### **Howard T. Howard**

Principal Horn, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra (retired)

### **Alex Iles**

Trombone, first-call freelance/studio musician, Hollywood

### **Monica Kaenzig**

Clarinet, Los Angeles Philharmonic (retired)

### **Morris Kainuma\***

Acting Principal Tuba, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

### **Don Liuzzi\***

Timpani, Philadelphia Orchestra

### **Kimberly Bryden Loch**

Principal Oboe, Toledo Symphony

### **William Lucas\***

Trumpet, Detroit Symphony Orchestra

### **Mark Nuccio**

Principal Clarinet, Houston Symphony Orchestra

### **Roger Oyster\***

Trombone, Kansas City Symphony (retired)

### **Jeffrey Reynolds\***

Bass Trombone, Los Angeles Philharmonic (retired)

### **Gernot Schulz**

Percussion, Berlin Philharmonic (retired)

### **Robert Sheena**

English Horn and Oboe, Boston Symphony Orchestra

### **Robert Sullivan\***

Principal Trumpet, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra

### **Kenneth Thompkins**

Principal Trombone, Detroit Symphony Orchestra (retired)

### **Adam Unsworth**

Philadelphia Orchestra (former member)

### **Jeffery Zook\***

Piccolo and Flute, Detroit Symphony Orchestra

\*Former student of H. Robert Reynolds

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

H. Robert Reynolds has blended an enlightening account of his life's journey with glimpses of people and experiences that have influenced him, peppered with pearls of wisdom regarding professional growth, and ultimately embellished with insightful observations regarding conducting greatness contributed by a collection of world-renowned ensemble musicians. Trust me, it doesn't get any better than this.

—RICHARD FLOYD

Students of conducting will discover this contribution by H. Robert Reynolds and Doris Doyon to be an important insight into the art of conducting. Perhaps most inspiring is the professional narrative that Professor Reynolds lived for more than seventy years. This pathway has been distinguished by his heartfelt passion for music making, his insatiable curiosity, his relentless work ethic, his humility, his love and respect for others, and his willingness to embrace risk and failure in the pursuit of personal and musical growth. These are important lessons for all who have the courage and tenacity to follow this same pathway.

—CRAIG KIRCHHOFF

Robert Reynolds has lived a life fueled by a relentless passion for discovering, learning, and sharing what it is to be an artistic conductor. With his personal narrative, supplemented by the astute revelations of distinguished professional orchestral musicians, Reynolds explores and reveals what it is to be a "great" conductor and gives us a glimpse into his remarkable journey as an insatiable student and inspirational teacher of the art he loves.

—ALLAN McMURRAY

I couldn't put it down. Not since Bruno Walter's *On Music and Music Making* have I read such a captivating book on the art and craft of conducting. Reading this book made me reflect on all that I do as a conductor. The comments from each of the professional musician were insightful kernels every conductor should read, re-read, and then take to heart. Bravo! Thank you, Bob!

—CARL ST. CLAIR

This book is a delightful combination of Professor Reynolds' personal anecdotes, nuggets of advice, practical strategies for score study and rehearsal technique, and valuable insight from the players' side of the podium. Perhaps even more significant, it inspires us by providing evidence of the impact that one curious and insightful person can have on an entire profession. Thank you, Bob!

—MALLORY THOMPSON

Succinctly put, H. Robert Reynolds is an international treasure! Many have played under his positive leadership, learned from his vast wisdom, witnessed his authentic music making, and attended his compelling clinic and symposia appearances. In each scenario, Bob's artistic vision, respectful interactions, and steadfast persistence transformed the lives of those present. This book is the product of a decades-long curiosity and desire for sustained personal growth. The words of the contributors are insightful, straight to the point, and profound. There's one gold nugget after another, and our profession needs to hear and implement them all. Do yourself and your community a favor by reading this remarkable resource!

—J. ERIC WILSON

# IN PURSUIT OF GREAT CONDUCTING

H. ROBERT REYNOLDS  
WITH DORIS DOYON

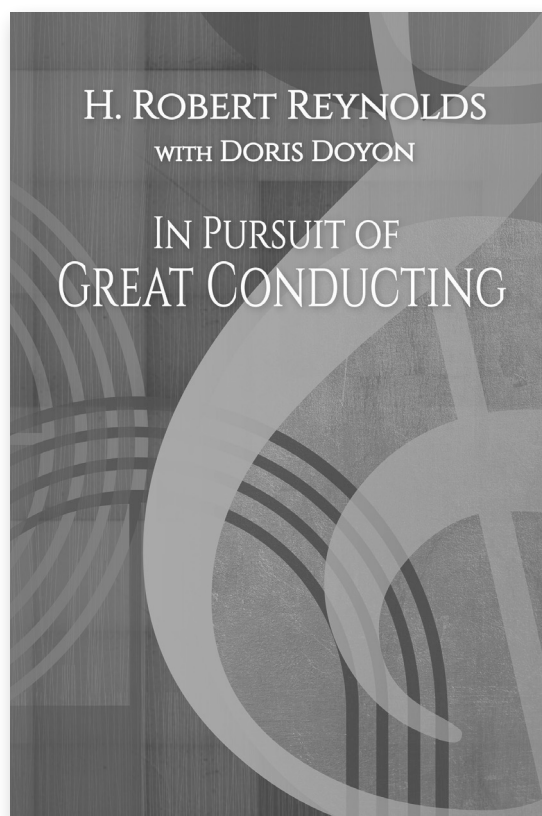
Renowned wind band conductor H. Robert Reynolds has pondered an important question throughout his illustrious career: What is the difference between a good conductor and a *great* conductor? This volume addresses the subject head-on, with wisdom from Reynolds' own experience and reflections shared by twenty professional musicians of the highest caliber.

Part I chronicles the remarkable career of H. Robert Reynolds, who conducted the Michigan Symphony Band from 1975 to 2001 and then the University of Southern California Wind Ensemble for the next two decades.

Reynolds shares captivating stories and invaluable lessons from his influential seventy-year career in teaching and conducting, complemented by more than a dozen photographs from his life, including moments with family, friends, and other notable musicians.

In Part II, twenty professional musicians, many former students of Reynolds, offer profound insights into the characteristics that set great conductors apart. Their observations—drawn from playing for some of the world's most celebrated conductors—illuminate the path to greatness.

This inspiring volume is a testament to the transformative power of musical leadership and an essential guide for conductors at any stage of their musical journey.



**H. Robert Reynolds** served as the Director of University Bands and Chairman of the Conducting Department at the University of Michigan from 1975 to 2001. He continued his career at the University of Southern California, where he was the Principal Wind Ensemble Conductor for nearly two decades. Renowned for his interpretive skills, Reynolds has conducted at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Sydney Opera House, earning acclaim from leading composers. His dedication to music education has influenced countless students, many of whom now hold prominent conducting positions worldwide.

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