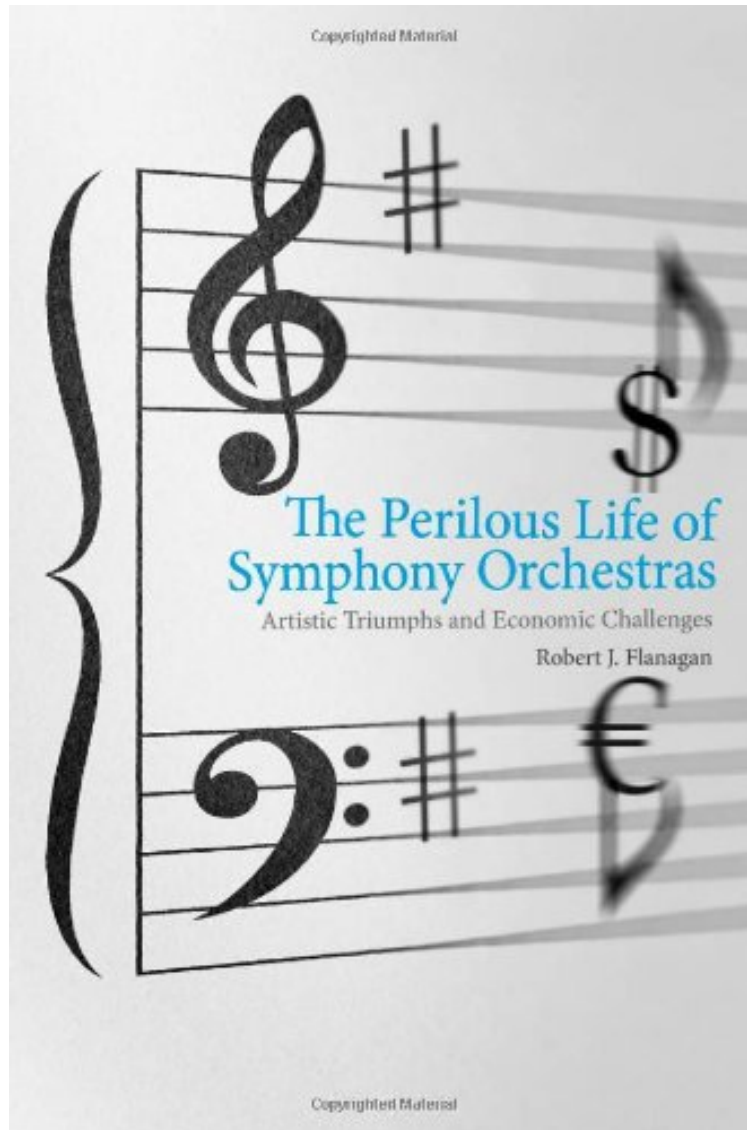


# The Perilous Life of Symphony Orchestras: Artistic Triumphs and Economic Challenges

Robert J. Flanagan

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**Robert J. Flanagan : The Perilous Life of Symphony Orchestras: Artistic Triumphs and Economic Challenges** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Perilous Life of Symphony Orchestras: Artistic Triumphs and Economic Challenges:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I recommend this very highly By Peter M. Alexander This is not a book that will be of interest to anyone who is not in the music business. That said, as someone who writes about music

and about orchestras professionally, I found this very valuable reading. I learned things that are virtually essential for me to know. For anyone who works as a professional classical musician or in arts administration, serves on the board of an arts organization, or writes about orchestras, I recommend this very highly. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worth your time and patience  
By Bainbridge Booklover  
Plenty of food for thought accompanied by copious graphs and charts although the sampling is limited. Best not to read it on a Kindle if you want to see the charts. The author is somewhat tendentious and repetitious in his earnestness to make everything clear - which indeed he does. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I recommend it to any/all arts organizations' Board of Directors  
By tricia swift  
As the President of the Board of an orchestra, I found Flanagan's analysis to be revelatory and galvanizing. I recommend it to any/all arts organizations' Board of Directors.

This book analyzes the economic challenges facing symphony orchestras and contrasts the experience of orchestras in the United States (where there is little direct government support) and abroad (where governments typically provide large direct subsidies). Robert J. Flanagan explains the tension between artistic excellence and financial jeopardy that confronts most symphony orchestras. He analyzes three complementary strategies for addressing orchestras economic challenges: raising performance revenues, slowing the growth of performance expenses, and increasing nonperformance income and demonstrates that none of the three strategies alone is likely to provide economic security for orchestras.

This important and readable volume demonstrates the underlying disconnect between artistic achievement and economic reality facing the professional symphony orchestra. Its careful analysis, based on extensive data, lays out the ground, including relentlessly rising costs and ageing audiences, for concern for the future of this vital cultural activity in the U.S. and elsewhere. It is a volume not to be missed by anyone concerned with tomorrow's state of the arts.  
William Baumol, *The Cost Disease*