

# Reaching Out

New book offers advice on building  
a successful interactive concert series

BY ELIANA FIORE

**A**UTHOR DAVID WALLACE HAS CRAFTED a masterful account of how to build a successful educational concert in *Reaching Out: A Musician's Guide to Interactive Performance*. In this easy-to-read, step-by-step book, Wallace speaks to musicians who may have top-notch conservatory training, but might not have the first clue as to how to build an educational performance worthy of school auditoriums, symphony halls, community centers, or any venue in which a non-musician audience is eager to learn.

The author, a Juilliard School faculty member and senior teaching artist at the New York Philharmonic, first gives a thorough explanation of what makes an interactive performance, emphasizing that a single musical "entry point" is essential to give the audience a way to relate to a complex work or composer. He then describes many interactive archetypes and strategies to interact with an audience, including "perform-alongs," listening challenges, and dialogue-based activities.

Wallace uses gentle, diplomatic language throughout in a way that focuses on what's best for the audience while understanding the reader's musical point of view. His conversational tone helps the reader follow him from the more abstract introduction of multiple intelligences to a practical question-and-answer section on how to prevent or handle logistical issues. These issues range from what to do when the commissioning organization asks you to integrate non-musical material into your performance to fulfill multiple educational requirements to how to engage uninterested members of your performing group.

Readers learn age-appropriate methods of reaching audience members, how to address multiple intelligences within a single concert, and most importantly, how allowing the

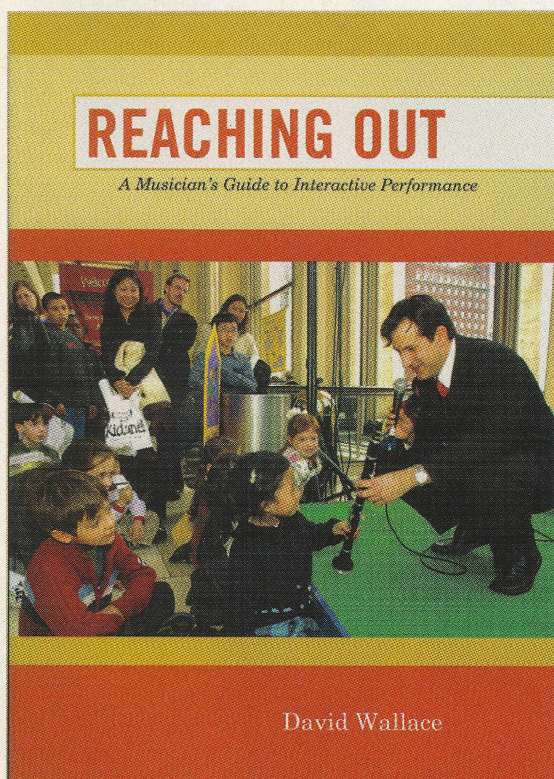
audience members to experience new music on their own is infinitely more effective than lecturing them on what the music is all about.

Especially useful to the novice interactive performer are the five interactive concert transcripts included at the end of the book, which show by example what excellent educational performances look like. Titles include "From Discord, Find Harmony: A Musical Exploration of Conflict and Resolution" and "What's So Great About Mozart?" The line-by-line breakdown of audience discussion, various activities, and performer examples are immensely helpful.

*Reaching Out* provides readers with the structured guidance they need to build a performance that is not only held to a high musical standard but is also educationally sound. Upon completion, the reader is bound to feel well equipped to develop his or her own ways to help audience members discover their own love of music. This edition is a must-read for all musicians interested in extending their performance repertoire to include educational outreach work and for arts organizations looking to craft professional development programs.

Enthusiastically recommended!

*Reaching Out: A Musician's Guide to Interactive Performance* by David Wallace. Published by McGraw-Hill, [www.mhprofessional.com](http://www.mhprofessional.com), \$26.88.



*Largo from the New World Symphony* by Antonín Dvořák. Arranged by Carlo Martelli. Published by Broadbent & Dunn, Ltd., [www.broadbent-dunn.com](http://www.broadbent-dunn.com), £6.95, parts.

Broadbent & Dunn have released a splendid string-quartet arrangement of the Largo movement from Antonín Dvořák's "New World" symphony, written originally for full orchestra. Arranger Carlo Martelli's musical devices and insights allow the limited instrumentation of a string quartet to appropriately fill out the sonorities and capture the scope of the original composition.

The composition's themes pass through all of the quartet's instruments, giving each a turn in the spotlight. The inner voices and cello support the first violin, the instrument primarily charged with carrying the theme originally written for oboe. Martelli does an excellent job of choosing the proper instrument, or combination of instruments, to represent each of the themes without losing any of the composition's depth and texture. Martelli also provides comfortable double-stops within the individual parts.

