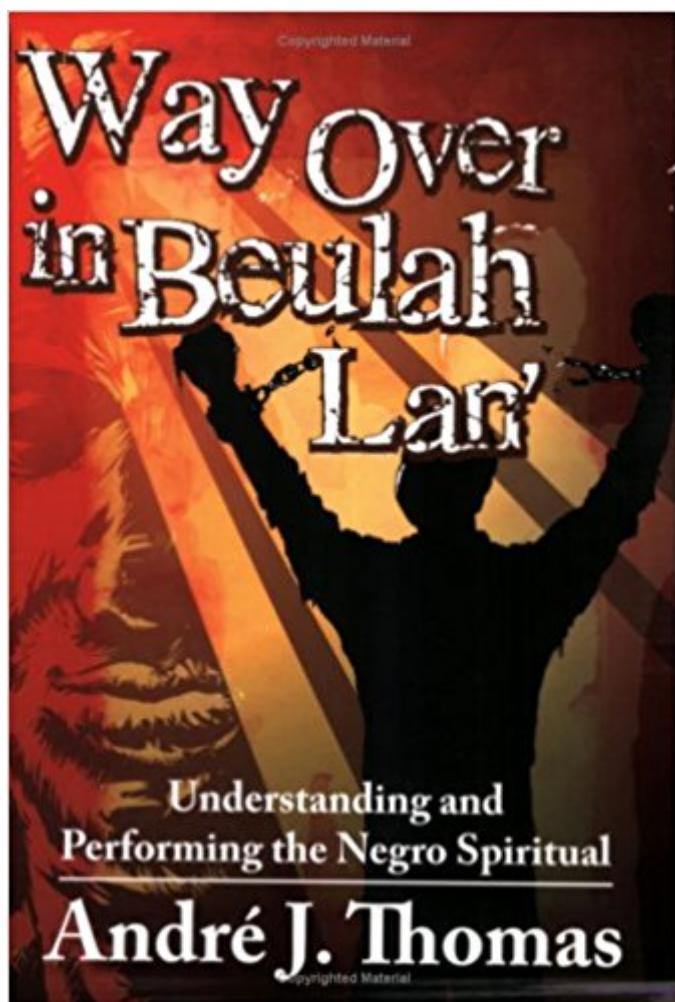


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# Way Over In Beulah Lan': Understanding And Performing The Negro Spiritual



## Synopsis

Renowned choral conductor and educator AndrÃ© J. Thomas has crafted a book that the conductor of any choral ensemble-be it church, high school, university, or professional-will want close at hand when preparing to program any concert spiritual. Understanding the Spiritual, the first of the book's two sections, includes an exploration of the beginnings of the spiritual, its role in society and its transition into art music. Issues of interpretation-text, diction, rhythm and tempo-are addressed in the second section, Performing the Spiritual. In addition to interviews with noted conductors Dr. Anton Armstrong and Prof. Judith Willoughby as to matters of performance and selection, the centerpiece of this section is Dr. Thomas's personal reflections on several spiritual arrangements, including his rehearsal techniques (with specific examples and measure-number references to the included scores), as well as an insightful look into his decisions of interpretation.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Heritage Music Press (May 9, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0893287237

ISBN-13: 978-0893287238

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.8 x 9.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #833,437 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #126 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Gospel #347 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Ethnic & International > Ethnomusicology #618 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Music

## Customer Reviews

Dr. AndrÃ© J. Thomas, Owen F. Sellers, Professor of Music, is Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Choral Music Education at Florida State University. He previously served on the faculty of the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Thomas received the baccalaureate degree in Music Education from Friends University, the Masters Degree in Piano Performance from Northwestern University, and the Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Illinois. He is frequently in demand as a choral adjudicator, clinician and director of Honor Choirs and All-State Choirs throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, New Zealand, and Australia. He has conducted

choirs at the state, division and national conventions of Music Educators National Conference (MENC) and American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). He has served as a conductor and clinician for the International Federation of Choral Musicians. In 1998, Dr. Thomas conducted the World Youth Choir in the Republic of China and the Philippines, and returned in 1999-2000 to conduct the winter residency of the World Youth Choir in Europe. In 1999, he and the Florida State University Singers performed in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, at the invitation of the Vietnamese government. Besides his extensive conducting credits, he has distinguished himself as a composer/arranger. His compositions and arrangements are published by Heritage Music Press, Hinshaw Music Company, Mark Foster Music Company, Fitzsimmon Music Company, Lawson-Gould, earthsongs, Laurel Press, and Choristers Guild. Dr. Thomas conducts several choral ensembles at the Florida State campus and teaches choral conducting. In November 1995, the Florida chapter of the ACDA presented Dr. Thomas with the prestigious Wayne Hugobloom Distinguished Service Award for his Dedicated Service, Leadership and Consistent Example of Excellence to his Profession The Choral Art. On January 13, 1996, Florida State University honored Dr. Thomas with the Dr

Good to have this book of spirituals available.

A good read to going knowledge about historical and contemporary settings of spirituals.

As a choral music educator from Florida, I have long admired the work of Andre Thomas. His knowledge of all styles of music is exceptional and I truly appreciate his work.

Way over in Beulah Lan', by Andre' Thomas, is a resource any aspiring music educator should have in their arsenal. Full of documentation and historical evaluation of the effect and source of the spiritual, Dr. Thomas delves into his own experience, both positive and negative, to give an accurate account of the history of the spiritual as well as its development. Easy to read and understand the tome goes beyond the pedantic to illustrate false comprehension of dialect and performance faults. Wonderful for both historical and performance enhancing efforts, "Way over in Beulah Lan'" should be added to every music directors library.

The bios of famous spiritual arrangers alone are worth the price of the book. The rest of this information is uesful, too, and it's great to have it all in one volume.

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