

The Day I Almost Destroyed the Boston Symphony and Other Stories

by John Sant'Ambrogio

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(www.CelloStories.com or 800-500-9086)

On trips to St Louis I often saw this man sitting in the first cello chair with the St Louis Symphony. He was part of the gorgeous sound of that orchestra—a sound that may have been the most beautiful in the country in Leonard Slatkin's years there (1968-1996, counting years as assistant).

This is his book of remembrances and stories. It is delightfully written, with a light touch. The cast includes conductors from Charles Munch (he began in Boston) to Hans Vonk, cellists like Yo-yo Ma, guest artists, and the members of the orchestra. It will give you an enjoyable evening for sure; but I think it will also increase your respect for orchestral musicians. It's a wonderful world, full of extremely brilliant and talented people. This book strengthens one's determination to keep that world alive.

VROON