

## The Folly of Assumptions

Make the effort to learn more. Maestro Roger Nierenberg learned this lesson during his tenure as the music director of the Stamford Symphony in Connecticut.

He was once the guest conductor for another orchestra for which there was only one run-through of the music before the performance.

When the rehearsal did not go well, Nierenberg braced himself for what would surely be a disaster. However, on the night of the performance, the orchestra's execution was perfect.

What changed? Nierenberg learned that the musicians had been given almost illegible copies of the score. They struggled with the material, but were able to figure things out by the time of the performance.



Nierenberg realized that if he had asked questions or addressed the problem during the rehearsal, he would have been able to offer the musicians some solutions, or at the very least, encouragement. By saying nothing, everyone involved experienced more stress than was necessary.

It is rather ironic that in 2009 Nierenberg's book, *Maestro: A Surprising Story about Leading by Listening*, was honored as the Best Leadership Book that year.

This story serves as a reminder for us in Life Care and Century Park about why one should never make assumptions when things aren't working out.

Take the time to uncover the reasons behind certain situations. You won't be sorry.

The lives and the well-being of those we serve and lead are too important.

In fact, in the process, you can save yourself and others a great deal of frustration.

*Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance (Proverbs 1:5 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter