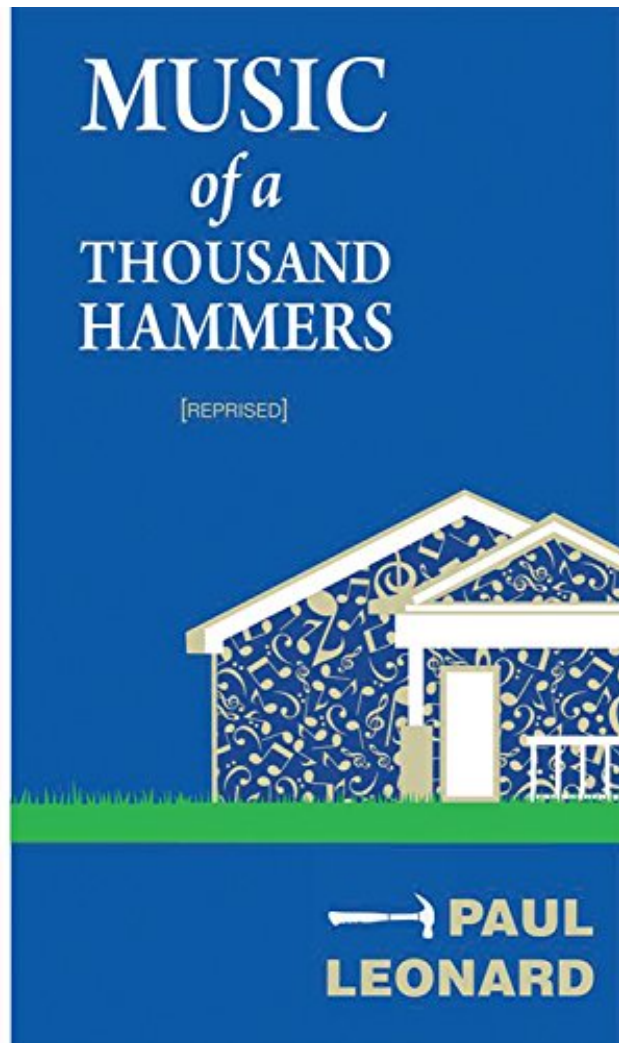


[Download] Music of a Thousand Hammers

## Music of a Thousand Hammers

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**Paul Leonard : Music of a Thousand Hammers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Music of a Thousand Hammers:

6 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Paul Leonard gets to the soul of HabitatBy Christine ArvidsonPaul Leonard handles this complicated and potentially destructive tale with grace and dignity. Anyone who has poured heart and soul into an organization, is a dedicated volunteer, or who serves on the board of a non profit should read this especially well-written book. Leonard gives us the real story beyond the headlines and sound bites, and thankfully skips any seedy speculation. Often those involved in difficult public situations write books after-the-fact that seek to present "their side of the story" with predictable personal butt-covering underlying the tale. Not so here. Music of a Thousand Hammers is, rather, an inspirational and hopeful read. Our world could use a whole lot more Paul and Judy

Leonards!7 of 10 people found the following review helpful. View from a Volunteer Supporter of HFH since its beginning  
By David L. Ewing  
We thought Ann Coulter reached the height of deceit and meanness in her latest book. Leonard has gone her one better. Not only has he demeaned the one who founded and nurtured Habitat for Humanity into a great movement, he is trying to re-write history and take Millard Fuller's place in the story. This is as sad as it is ridiculous. In an effort to justify moving Habitat's headquarters out of its home base, Leonard bashes Americus, GA, comparing it to a primitive African village on the edge of nowhere. With a veiled boast of his social status, he quotes his wife as saying that "Hell would freeze over" before she would stoop to living in Americus. What a contrast to Linda and Millard Fuller who were led to give away their substantial fortune and actually move to a village in Africa. They lived the experience, and it was there they established the viability of the organization they founded, Habitat for Humanity. The Fullers have been followed by thousands of like-minded people, unselfish enough to volunteer to live in some of the most primitive and impoverished places on earth with the mission of improving the living conditions of the very poor. As for Americus, it is a typical modern American town with churches of most denominations, public and private schools, some industry and farming, an active community theatre, a state university, and International Headquarters for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat grew into a great organization in Americus and showed no signs of slowing down. Moving to Atlanta will only result in much higher administrative costs, misusing the money donors give to build houses for people in need. That's not a good thing.  
4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Read Every Page Completely  
By John Public  
Just like half listening to a conversation at a busy diner, reading this book quickly will not give you a very good impression of the "meta-meaning" that lies within. I was extremely curious to read this book, having heard both sides of its story. I picked up my copy and in one hand held it, and in the other several of Fuller's books covering the same time period. Regardless of what anyone else may say of this book, I assure you that my greatest conclusion is that it is not written to 'inform.' Meaning? History, personal stories, highly detailed recreations of conversations from several years ago (hmm, could you recreate any conversation, verbatim, without notes?) his weird description of Americus, all serve a 'meta-purpose' and that is to show how he 'saved' Habitat for Humanity. His repeated detailing of the time it takes to get to the airport from Americus is just plain odd. Its three hours, get over it. With about half of the people in the US driving over one hour, each way, just to get to their jobs -- a lot of them paying far less than the \$100,000 Leonard siphoned out of Habitat -- to complain about an occasional trip through the Georgia countryside is just plain strange. Unless its part of the polemic, and blown into a vital part. The move to Atlanta "has to be done" for the same reason that the Fuller's "had to go" because the group-think of the Board had set off on a course and were incapable of turning away from the momentum of their decision. Whether the decision remains right or wrong is of secondary importance to the need to continue on a course. OK, so my reading is colored by the fact that I live in a town of under 1,000 people. Most people do not. That is by choice. There really isn't a "right or wrong" in the evaluation of that decision. Different strokes for different folks. To hang paragraph after paragraph of abuse around the neck of Americus -- for racism, bad schools, location, etc. etc. -- is unnecessary. His wife did not like the place. It could have been Athens, or Columbus, or any other place in the state. His wife did not like it. I like a cheap burger place downtown, my wife hates it. I don't go. But I don't spend my time writing a 1,000 reasons for why. Yes, for an international, billion dollar, industry Americus is an odd choice. No more odd than the fact that WalMart continues to make its executive decisions in Arkansas. Harley Davidsons are still made in Milwaukee, Marvin Windows come from Warroad, MN, for a while the Billy Graham Crusade publication office was in Duluth, GA. This is not a 'page turner.' It is quite dispassionate, almost to the point of reading more like corporate communications than a narrative. I am not saying these things just to make a political point. I read this with idea of getting some information. But, as I said, one comes away from the book without a firm picture of who Paul Leonard is, and what deep down motivates him. Thus, while excellent corporate biography (within the press release, annual report quality realm) it fails as compelling literature.

As the former CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, Paul Leonard is able to tell the real story of what it takes to provide shelter for people in need around the globe. Music of a Thousand Hammers accurately depicts the struggles, challenges and successes of Habitat for Humanity. His unique perspective will inspire anyone to pick up a hammer and join in the music that emanates from the astounding work that Habitat performs around the world. From India, to Guatemala and South Africa, to Charlotte, NC, Leonard has wielded a hammer, and in the process has come to know many amazing folks. Their stories, along with his, fill the pages of this inspiring tribute to a global cause.

From Booklist  
Leonard left his post as Habitat for Humanity's CEO in 2005. Now, in this insightful memoir, he looks back at what got him involved with Habitat and the extraordinary experiences he and his wife shared while working on Habitat projects around the world, from West Philly to Ghana, Belfast, and Houston. He also addresses the lofty goals he thinks Habitat should strive toward in the future. Coming from a top managerial position in a large home-building corporation, Leonard, a former minister, was immediately impressed with Habitat's ability to bridge the social and economic dissimilarities of its participants, each one leaving his or her "title, status, wallet, pedigree, color, gender, education, and background at the door." He dreams of a more holistic approach for Habitat, perhaps offering

scholarships, after-school programs, and loans for family businesses. He advocates inviting other organizations to contribute expertise in health issues, education, and employment. Leonard concludes this informative and inspiring account of a successful, altruistic not-for-profit organization by writing, "Let Habitat reach beyond houses." Deborah Donovan Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Paul Leonard accurately depicts the struggles, challenges and successes of Habitat for Humanity. His unique perspective will inspire anyone to pick up a hammer and join in the music that emanates from the astounding work that Habitat performs around the world." --Jonathan Reckford, CEO, Habitat for Humanity International About the Author Paul Leonard began his career at Charlottes Trinity Presbyterian Church. He eventually left traditional ministry to work with city housing, and was later recruited by the John Crosland Company. In 1984, he became the companys president. When the company was acquired by Centex Real Estate Corporation, Leonard was appointed as Executive Vice-President. After retiring from Centex, Leonard was elected to the Board of Habitat for Humanity International; he served as Chairman of the Board (2001-2003) and then as the Interim CEO (2004 - 2005). Currently, he is a member of the US Council for Habitat for Humanity International. (Leonard, Paul)