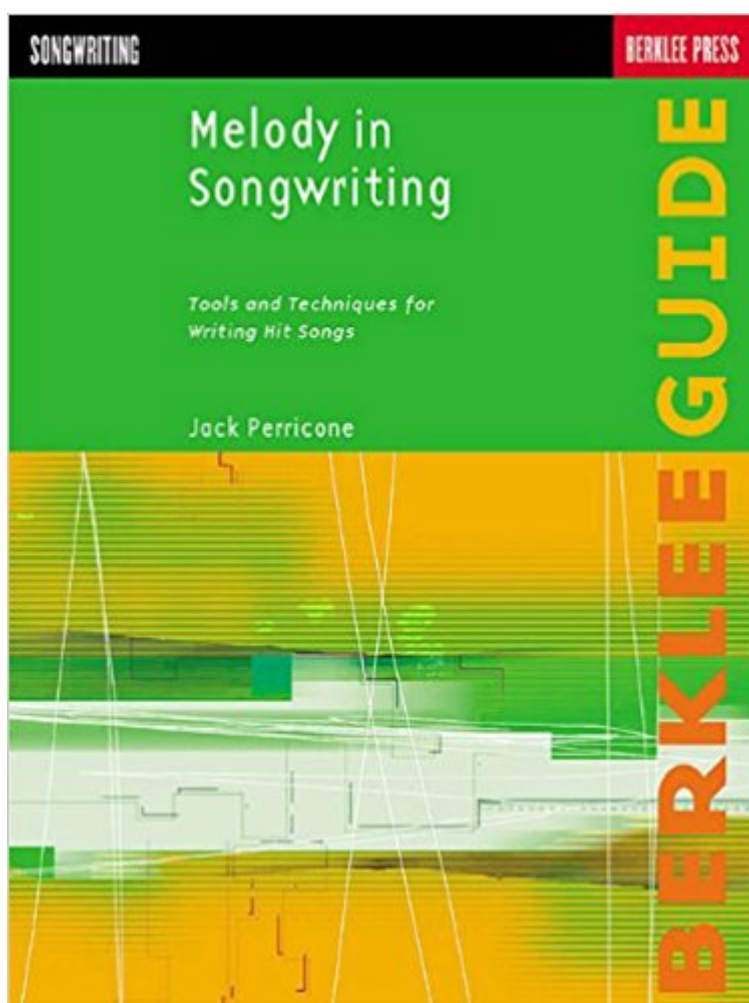


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Melody In Songwriting: Tools And Techniques For Writing Hit Songs (Berklee Guide)



Synopsis

(Berklee Guide). Melody is a subject too often neglected in the teaching of music. This unique resource gives melody that attention it deserves, and proves that melody writing is a skill that can be learned. Through proven tool and techniques, you will learn to write interesting melodies, how melodic rhythm influences rhyme, what makes harmony progress, and the many dynamic relationships between melody and harmony. This clear and comprehensive approach to songwriting unlocks the secrets of popular songs, revealing what really makes them work. Examples of great songs by such notable songwriters as Lennon and McCartney, Diane Warren, Robert Palmer, and more, provide a close-up illustration of the songwriting techniques employed by these masters of the industry. This is the book used in Songwriting classes at Berklee College of Music. The exercises provided make it a wonderful self-teaching manual and a great addition to any general theory course of any level. Use the tools presented in this book to help fine-tune your craft and start writing hits!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The approach this book takes to instruction is thorough, but in significant places, also needlessly complicated. I mean this chiefly in terms of the example melodies that are given throughout the book. They are almost never straightforward. They are almost always syncopated. They very often begin on 're' or 'la' or some other note that is not stable within the key, and end on these notes, as

well. Perhaps this is an attempt to make them more 'interesting', but usually they are not. They simply strain some of your inner hearing resources and thereby make it harder to concentrate on the pedagogical point at hand. Also, in the section on developing melodies, examples are given of retrograde and inverted melodies that are in fact not the inversion or retrogression of the original. I understand an effort is probably being made to keep things more 'interesting'. But what the reader needs is a straightforward presentation that sets the point at hand into sharp relief. The book is comprehensive and could be superior for a lot of people to more classic texts for music majors such as Tonal Harmony. But these flaws seriously compromise its value. Too bad.

I like this book. It satisfies an important aspect of music theory education. This is not your standard (all too common) general, basic music theory education. It is more intermediate than that. The reader should already have a fairly good understanding of music theory to go through this book. This occupies an interesting niche in music theory education.

The content of this book is great. The presentation is on a level FAR above the content, like, not in an airplane, but more like a satellite. In fact, you can't even see the content from the presentation level - you would need a telescope. Some authors get confused and present 2nd grade material using rocket science level terminology and Quadrilateral philhavitic masochistlimenticalchronistic representiminical methodological extremism. What this means is that if you can understand the scholastic presentation level, you would already have a thorough understanding of the material presented. This is the kind of book that inspired the "...for Dummies" and "idiots guide to..." books. I think I have spent as much as an hour just reading 1 particular sentence, over and over, trying to decipher what it means. After so many re-readings, I would have to move on, hoping to find something else that might give me some contextual clue to the sentence[s] I passed up without comprehension. So I gave it 3 stars - the content, I believe, is 5 stars - but it's not much use if you can't understand it. I really hope the author will hire someone to re-word things in the next edition. I would pay for it again, just to be able to get a solid understanding of most of the sentences in less than 5 re-readings.

This is one of my favorite books. I learned a ton about songwriting and composition from this. There's a lot of info about music theory in here too. I love how he gives you real examples of everything he is talking about and relates it back to lyrics and arrangement. A must read for any songwriter.

Really good read.

So far I've made it through the first few chapters, and this book has prompted me to think about melody in new ways. It gives almost mathematically rigorous definitions of the terms that apply to rhythmic and melodic elements, and discusses how melody interacts with lyrics. It is usefully specific in describing devices that heighten/release tension, give a sense of closure or anticipation, and so on. There are exercises to help the reader develop an intuition for how all these concepts work; I found them both useful and fun. I am reading this book with a pretty substantial amount of music theory already under my belt, and I think that helps; I wouldn't have been ready for a book like this before having taken some theory classes and tried writing some melodies on my own. I don't think it would be totally unapproachable on a technical level, but having a background in theory would definitely let you get more enjoyment out of the book and move along more quickly.

My son liked it!

This book is intense, thorough as mentioned above in the subject, and may be intimidating for the novice...I suggest having a basic understanding of theory, and music analysis before diving into this book...I have yet to dive in myself, although have glimpsed a lot...College Level Material, Berklee Series, cant get any better than this...Also a nice addition to the Collection...

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