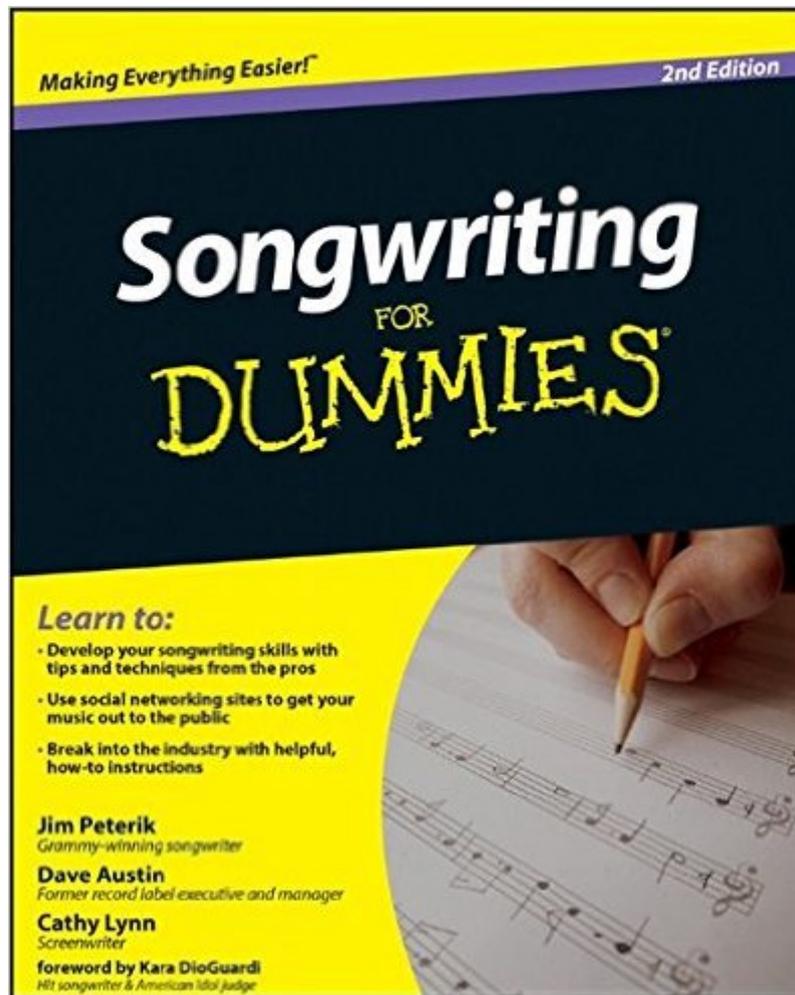


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Songwriting For Dummies



Synopsis

Proven techniques for songwriting success This friendly, hands-on guide tackles the new face of the recording industry, guiding you through the shift from traditional sales to downloads and mobile music, as well as how you can harness social media networks to get your music "out there." You get basic songwriting concepts, insider tips and advice, and inspiration for writing "and selling" meaningful, timeless songs. Songwriting 101 "get a grip on everything you need to know to write a song, from learning to listen to your "inner voice" to creating a "mood" and everything in between Jaunt around the genres "discover the variety of musical genres and find your fit, whether it's rock, pop, R&B, gospel, country, or more Let the lyrics out "master the art of writing lyrics, from finding your own voice to penning the actual words to using hooks, verses, choruses, and bridges Make beautiful music "find your rhythm, make melodies, and use chords to put the finishing touches on your song Work the Web "harness online marketing and social networks like Facebook, Twitter, and others to get your music heard by a whole new audience Open the book and find: What you need to know before you write a single note Tips on finding inspiration Ways to use poetic devices in lyrics Computer and Web-based shortcuts and technologies to streamline songwriting A look at famous songwriting collaborators Writing for stage, screen, and television How to make a demo to get your song heard Advice on how to make money from your music Learn to: Develop your songwriting skills with tips and techniques from the pros Use social networking sites to get your music out to the public Break into the industry with helpful, how-to instructions

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Customer Reviews

For what it is and what it's meant to achieve, I would give this 5 stars. It covers all the bases in just enough depth to get one's feet wet so as to not tune the average reader out. One might argue some things could be embellished upon and others really aren't about the art of songwriting itself - for instance the chapters dealing with the business end of things vs. a somewhat brief chapter on chord structure. I feel a 'Dummies' book isn't so much educational as it is to point you in the right direction - you may find the realities of the music business change your attitude toward songwriting. It's nice to have the basics all laid out on the table before you start investing yourself. Where I fault this book is in the song examples covered. For the under 30 demographic, which I imagine this book is targeted at, the examples here are rather obscure. A good three quarters of them are from the 70s and earlier. That in itself I don't have a problem with, but where's the Zep, Hendrix, Who, Doors, Floyd, Beach Boys references? Aside from the Beatles and Berry and Elvis, there's not much mention of songs that would be indelible in a young person's mind, IOW, bands that made a huge social impact. Same with the newer stuff but it's even more spotty here, little mention of the likes of that class from a decade ago of Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins, etc. - Train and Nickelback groundbreaking? Huh?!? My ears must have turned inside out. And one of the authors (a guy who co-wrote Eye of the Tiger), mentions his songs in examples ad-nauseum. It's one thing to casually mention some here or there to get his perspective as the writer, but IMO this comes off like a sleazy ploy to pump up royalties.

I picked up this book because I wanted to learn to write good songs, and that's it. Although I enjoyed this book overall, only about 100-150 pages of material is directly relevant to what I was looking to learn. If more text was devoted to the actual process of creating the best, most expressive music possible, I would have liked it a lot more. Pros:- There's a lot of insightful advice from personal experience sprinkled throughout the book (e.g. set deadlines for yourself because you tend to spend as much time as you have to complete things; have a recorder ready at all times)- The basics are covered. Nothing feels left out.- Besides knowing the basics of an instrument (which will help you get the most out of this book), there's no real prerequisite music knowledge necessary.- It's funny. Cons:- Actual music theory is **really** neglected. The chord-progression chapter (10) is less than 10 pages long! I felt like they didn't do justice to the subject matter here at all: Not only could what was written use more explaining (with graphics), but the scope of what was covered was

extremely narrow as well.- Lots of space is dedicated to the legal and business side of songwriting. Maybe there are some people who might appreciate this, but for me, a guy looking to learn how to write good songs and nothing else (as are, I bet, a lot of people who buy this book), it wasn't worth much to me.- Lots of space is spent explaining common-knowledge things that I think virtually anyone who picks up a book on songwriting would already know. There's a whole chapter devoted to explaining the different genres (this is pop, this is gospel).

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