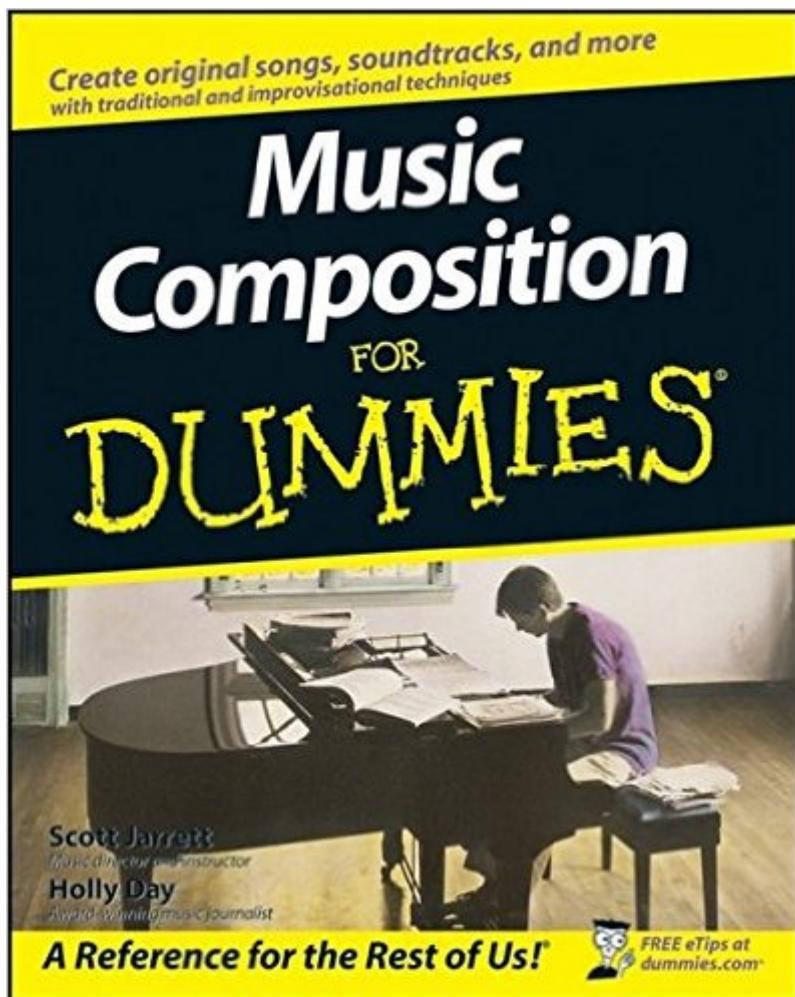


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# Music Composition For Dummies



## **Synopsis**

Want to turn that haunting tune in your head into an awesome sound in your ear? You can! *Music Composition For Dummies* demystifies the process of composing music and writing songs. It guides you through every step of writing your own music, from choosing the right rhythm and tempo to creating melodies and chord progressions and working with instruments and voices. In this fun and practical guide, you'll learn how to match keys and chords to the mood you want to convey, work a form without limiting your creativity, and hammer out a musical idea, even when your mind is drawing a blank. You'll find out how to create popular songs, classically structured pieces, and even film, TV, and video game soundtracks. And, you'll learn what you need to know about music composition software, including Finale, Sibelius, Pro Tools, and more. Discover how to:

- Preserve and organize your musical ideas
- Work with established chord progressions or create your own
- Develop great rhythms
- Select the right instruments
- Find melodies in your head, your instrument, and the world around you
- Use major and minor scales
- Work with modes and moods
- Build melodic motifs and phrases
- Use the circle of fifths to harmonize
- Write for multiple voices
- Make a demo recording

Filled with creative exercises to build your composing skills, *Music Composition for Dummies* is the resource you need to get that melody out of your head and into the world.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

*Music Composition for Dummies* is much more than a basic music theory book or a collection of musical ideas. Most folks who have enough theory behind them to be able to create music could use a little help in finding inspiration, techniques, and background to implement their creations. This

book focuses on that aspect of composition. The authors' style of composition is not forced on the reader, but a variety of techniques and resources are offered which will assist you in finding your voice and enhancing your creativity. As a long-suffering play-by-ear guitarist, the section on scales and modes was especially helpful. When I have used scales other than the few I am comfortable with, I tend to sound like I'm simply running the scale. The exercises in this section helped me find melodies in those scales and made the "Circle of Fifths" into more of a tool than a mystical phrase often used, but rarely comprehended. The section titled "Finding Melody in Your Instrument" was particularly useful in helping me break old habits in chord progressions and intervals. Chapter 9, "Harmonizing with Melodies," added even more to that pallet. I doubt that I'll ever writing anything worthy of actual orchestration, but the section on "Composing for the Standard Orchestra" gave me insight into writing for instruments that I rarely experience outside of others' recordings. I usually use synthesizers for my orchestral instruments, but the formal background provided by this chapter enhances my ability to use those artificial instruments in a more natural setting. There is a lot of practical information about writing for a variety of markets, from commercial jingles to orchestras.

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