



# Music Composition For Dummies

By Scott Jarrett, Holly Day

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## Music Composition For Dummies By Scott Jarrett, Holly Day

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.

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### Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

**Create original songs, soundtracks, and more with traditional and improvisational techniques**

**Creative exercises build your composing skills**

**The fun and easy way® to turn the tune in your head into a full-fledged composition!**

Wish you could write music? You can! This friendly guide gives you everything you need to start composing, from choosing the right rhythm and tempo to writing with chords and melody to expressing your musical ideas through instruments and voices. You'll see how to create popular songs, classically structured pieces, and even film, TV, or video game soundtracks!

#### Discover How to:

- Master chord progressions
- Harmonize with melody
- Select the right instruments
- Write for multiple voices
- Compose electronic music
- Make a demo recording

Explanations in plain English

"Get in, get out" information

Icons and other navigational aids

Online cheat sheet

Top ten lists

A dash of humor and fun

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#### About the Author

**Scott Jarrett** is a producer and musician who currently runs Monkey House recording studio.

**Holly Day** is the co-author of *Music Theory For Dummies*; her articles have appeared in publications across the globe.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

**Kenneth Hand:**

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**Anthony Doucet:**

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