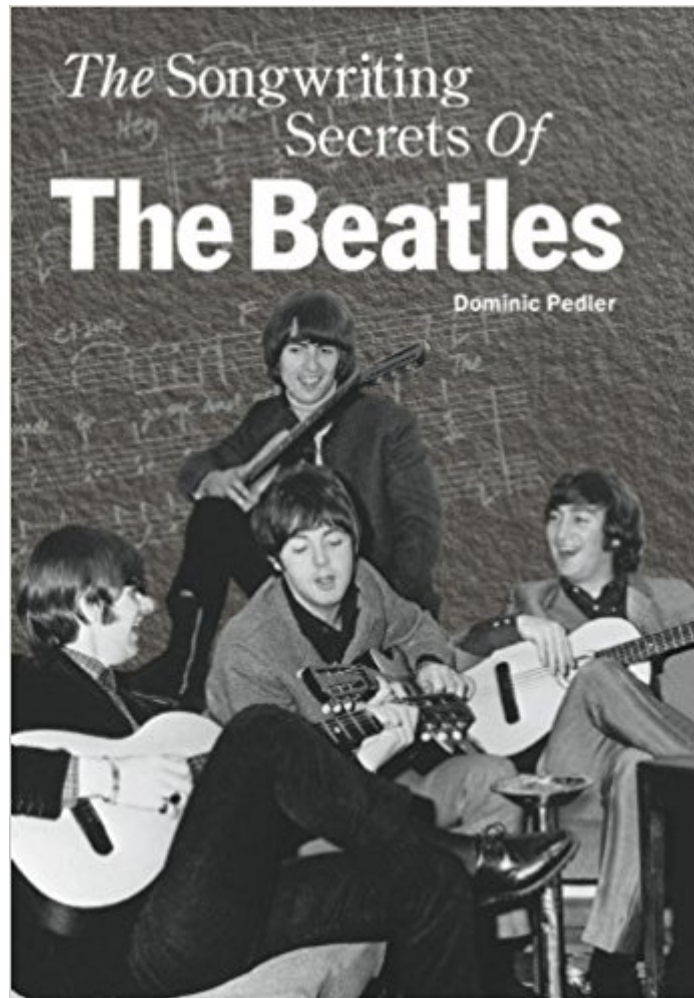




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Songwriting Secrets Of The Beatles



Synopsis

This ground breaking book sets out to explore The Beatles' songwriting techniques in a clear and readable style. It is aimed not only at musicians, but at anyone who has ever enjoyed the work of one of the most productive and successful songwriting partnerships of the 20th century. Author Dominic Pedler explores the chord sequences, melodies, harmonies, rhythms and structures of The Beatles' self-penned songs, while challenging readers to enhance their appreciation of the lyrics themselves with reference to the musical context. Throughout the book the printed music and lyrics of The Beatles' songs appear alongside the text, illustrating the author's explanations. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is to Beatles books, or music theory books, as the Beatles were to music -- so high above the rest it is staggering. This is the greatest introduction to music theory ever written, and should be used as the basic text in the training of every musician. If you ever wanted to know just why that Beatles tune you can't get out of your head is so great, you'll find the answer here. It's really a thorough introduction to music theory, using Beatles songs as the musical examples. This is a real bonus -- ordinarily in music theory texts, you have to run to the piano to try the chord progression they're talking about. But if you know the Beatles' songs really well, you'll have those tunes and chords in your head. No more does music theory have to be this boring interlude between all your fun musical adventures. This book shows you how the Beatles sounded so good. If you have any yen for songwriting or musical composition, you should start here. Even more than Duke Ellington,

the music of the Beatles is the greatest accomplishment in popular music, and will be ranked with Bach, Beethoven, Shakespeare, and Tolstoy a hundred years from now. And this book should be right there next to it, explaining it all.

I'd give 6 out of 5 stars if I could. It was worth having shipped from the UK to US. I've played guitar for 25+ years and have read many, many books on "applied" music theory. For me, the greatest challenge in other texts is "hearing" the numerical chord changes in my head. While I understand these concepts and musical transitions from a learned-by-ear approach, I was never one that could say, "that's the iv-chord moving to the I-chord to the V7-chord." The Beatles catalog is so well known, it provides examples of all the numerical chord changes in famous, well-known Beatles songs. This makes learning the concepts much easier since there are famous examples that can easily be sung along to (mentally), while examining the explanation. Easy to read, great presentation, amazing information. Beyond the technical music theory I'm learning, I continue to be truly amazed at the Beatles' ability to learn a "tool" and apply it in musical perfection. GREAT BOOK.

This is an outstanding achievement. The author explains what makes the Beatles songs so good and so enduring in language that can be understood by a variety of audiences. If you have a basic knowledge of music theory, it will be challenging at points, but very understandable. If you don't, the seven appendices will tell you everything you need to know. The author has an extensive knowledge and a deep recognition of all aspects of the music, but the language is not pedantic or condescending. If you want to know the differences between Lennon and McCartney (not the cultural clichés, but the actual musical differences) this book will tell you with a deep appreciation of both, without extraneous nonsense. He likes Oasis a little too much, and there is more here about the opening chord of "A Hard Day's Night" than you could ever possibly want to know, but his illustration of the Beatles' achievements, inventions, and genius is unmatched.

I've always thought music theory was too technical for me. This book is tough for someone without some theory background (like myself) but not impossible. I enjoy the Beatles music so that makes me more open to trying to understand the theory concepts and I am enjoying what I am learning. Basically, it is sound translated into math and numbers and if you approach it that way it makes sense. For me it comes down to reading a few pages at a time, listening to the songs, re-reading the pages again, etc. until I get it. But I have already picked up so much and my ears can now hear and understand what is going on. It is demanding and fulfilling. I've forged through about 15 to 20 pages

a week but I understand everything I've read so far and I can now hear things in the music that I was unaware of before. It is fascinating and you will appreciate the Beatles so much more as you begin to understand how their songs were developed. This book is "heavy" and is for someone who is willing to put time and effort into the process but it is also giving me musical insight and understanding that just blows me away. It is some serious stuff!

Wow, what a treasure this book is. The author put so much work into this, that the book is a steal. A hefty tome, PACKED with real insight, and lots of valuable extras in the appendices. Admit it: You have listened to the Beatles for years, with wonder over how and why their songs are such emotional magic. This book tells you how and why. Best suited for those with at least a little knowledge of music theory. My own knowledge was very minimal and this book moved me to being pretty well educated on this style of composition. It won't be a quick read, but I truly treasured each page.

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