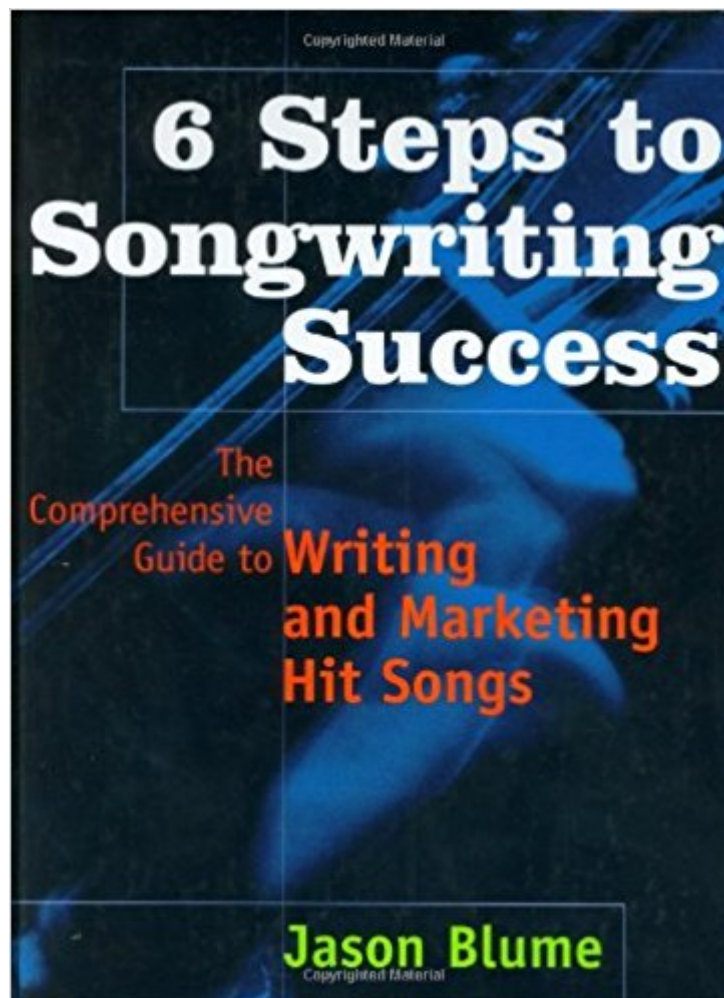




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6 Steps To Songwriting Success: The Comprehensive Guide To Writing And Marketing Hit Songs



Synopsis

This guide presents a step-by-step approach to mastering those key elements consistently found in hit songs: developing successful song structures, writing effective lyrics, composing memorable melodies, producing successful demos, taking care of business and developing persistence.

Book Information

Hardcover: 270 pages

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Customer Reviews

Jason Blume is a staff writer for Zomba Music. He has written songs for the Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, as well as John Berry's Top 5 country single, "Change my Mind" and Steve Azar's country hit "I Never Stopped Lovin' You." He also developed and teaches the BMI Nashville Songwriters Workshop. He lives in Nashville, TN. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Half the book is on the craft of songwriting: song structures, lyrics and titles, and melodies. The other half of the book is on the business of songwriting. It covers how to record a demo, how songwriters make money, publishing, song pitching. The author also talks about how it took him 16 years to really feel successful and comfortable, adding in a few chapters on being persistent and having realistic expectations. I like the quotes from professionals (writers and industry people) on all the subjects he covers, everything from the writing process, the business, melodies, hooks. The examples of lyric writing are mostly contemporary as of the early 2000s (unlike a few other books I have read) which is nice. However, I think there are better books about lyric writing and song

structure, namely: "Popular Lyric Writing: 10 Steps to Effective Storytelling" and "Writing Better Lyrics", which is why I'm giving this 4 stars. Finally, my advice to someone who wants to write songs is that it's fine to pick up a book or two to learn the basics. But ultimately, I believe that to write good songs, you should:

- 1) Put away the books
- 2) Listen to songs that you love and analyze why you like them
- 3) Actually write songs. It doesn't matter how good they are, it only matters that you keep finishing complete songs. That's the only way to actually get better.

I say this as someone who's read a lot of songwriting books and not written as much as I should have. Good luck!

If you're keen to get into the game of songwriting, it's a good book to read. It tries to provide details about the entire process involved in songwriting - from idea generation to marketing your songs. However, like any one book that tries to cover all bases in a very large and complex undertaking like the songwriting business, it ends up lacking in detail in every area. Lots of topics are summarily treated, especially areas on writing lyrics and composing melodies. The plus to the book are that it's got lots of great insights into the music business and is very matter of fact and brutally honest about the music industry and how it works and that helps in dispelling any rosy myths one might have when thinking of getting into it. That pushes you to realistically assess your talents and work harder to step up your game or decide if this career is one you really want to get into. My advice though is that this one book will not be enough if you really want to learn everything you need to know about songwriting, especially the musical aspects of composing and writing great lyrics. Some other books I found very very helpful as a companion to this were:

- Shortcuts to Hit songwriting - Robin Frederick
- The Craft and Business of Songwriting - John Braheny

Each step is more like a series of 20 steps (I'll call "micro steps"). Each micro step comes with an example to illustrate the point. All of these examples are great for clarifying ideas, but they drastically slow the narrative. They make it easy to see the trees (the leaves even) but they make it hard to see the forest. This book would make a companion to a version without any examples. That way people could breeze through sections that make sense and get the nitty gritty for harder topics.

Great content and ideas. Thanks Jason!

Happy with book.

This book gives you the real story about songwriting. The tools about lyrics and melodies is good

enough, but the business side, coming from someone who has been there, was a great value. The last step (spoiler alert :-) regarding your ability to face rejection and the reality of how low anyone's chances of being a successful songwriter needs to be read by everyone who wants to be a songwriter.

I have been a hobby songwriter for many years. I decided to try to take it up a level. Realizing I knew very little about the craft or the business, I knew I needed to buy some books. I chose Jason Blume's "6 Steps to Songwriting Success" because it had some good professional endorsements. I was also looking for an author who was a teacher because, let's face it, there are many authors who may know their subject but cannot communicate to those of us on lower levels. I was not dissatisfied with my choice. I was so happy with the book that I also bought Jason's "This Business of Songwriting". "6 Steps to Songwriting Success" is very organized, easy to read, and full of good information. There are many quotes by famous people in the industry in this book. If you are a newby and wanting to learn good tips about how to write and about how the business works then I highly recommend this book. There was nothing in this book that I was disappointed in.

Great book. Amazing how much it covers while staying so easy to understand. It doesn't get too technical yet is packed with vital information. Some of this is review for me being a musician for 12 years but most of it is very enlightening specific info about how to craft your songs so they actually could be on the radio and not strip them of their initial intention (getting your emotion, story across) I'm only a few chapters in. This is an awesome find if you're a stressed out songwriter like me. I was just working on a song before I got this book and was like "what the hell should my structure be, what are my options if I want this to be radio friendly". Blume even has a checklist just on that that is going on my wall today. This book takes a lot of the stress out of songwriting. I highly recommend it

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