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# Music Composition 1



## MUSIC COMPOSITION 1

*Jonathan E. Peters*



## Synopsis

(Includes free life-time access to on-line quizzes and audio samples) • is the first book in a two book series by award-winning composer, Jonathan Peters, which explains how music is formed and how to compose your own music. Book 1 covers the study of rhythmic and melodic composition, while book 2 covers harmonic composition and compositional form. Each lesson covers a particular concept (or related concepts). Concepts and compositional techniques are demonstrated throughout the course with real musical examples (pictures and on-line audio samples). Each lesson also contains memory questions, access to on-line quizzes, listening assignments, and transcription/composition assignments. Memory questions serve to summarize and reinforce key concepts learned, while the quizzes tests the students'™ knowledge and understanding of the material from each lesson. Students who take this course will get practice transcribing music (hearing a rhythm or a melody and writing it down) and also learn how to use music notation software. In the composition assignments students will get real life practice using the information and techniques learned in each lesson to write their own rhythms and melodies.

**WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS COURSE?** A computer with internet connection, screen, and speakers. A basic knowledge of music theory. If you do not already have a rudimentary understanding of music theory, it is recommended that you take a music theory course before this course. Some type of music notation software. The notation software demonstrated in this course is the Finale NotePad software. NotePad is a very basic music notation program and has all the necessary functions for a beginning composition student. An important part of music composition is getting your music to paper, and so this course will also develop the students'™ ability to properly notate their music. This software not only prints professional looking sheet music, it also allows the student to hear their compositions as they are writing them. You can read more about NotePad and download it for FREE at: [www.finalemusic.com/NotePad](http://www.finalemusic.com/NotePad) Although not a necessity, it is very beneficial that the student have some ability to play the piano (or other instrument)

**WHAT AM I GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS COURSE?** Includes free life-time access to on-line audio samples and quizzes for each lesson By the end of the course you will be able to compose your own rhythms and melodies. You will also learn how to develop your rhythmic and melodic material through a wide variety of compositional techniques. You will get practice transcribing music (hearing rhythms and melodies and then writing them down in notation form). You will get practice notating music using basic music notation software.

**WHO SHOULD TAKE THIS COURSE?** Anyone who has always wanted to learn how to write music! Every student of music! Beginning Composers/Songwriters Composers/Songwriters with previous knowledge or experience who want to brush up and hone

their skills (and maybe learn some new techniques!) Although this course uses many examples from classical music, most of the information and compositional techniques learned in this course can be used by musicians of any genre (including rock, pop, and jazz) If you want to deepen your understanding of music, learn to write it! Note: If at any point in this course you have music composition questions that you would like answered or if you would like to have each composition assignment reviewed and commented on, please contact the author at his web site [www.ComposerJonathanPeters.com](http://www.ComposerJonathanPeters.com) about receiving this service.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The book covers composition techniques using rhythm or melody. It does not cover harmony, which is the subject of volume 2. I give it 3 stars because it is well written and easy to follow. Also, the course material is now available on udemy for free, including the audio for the examples in the text and the quizzes. However, the coverage is superficial. Each concept is introduced with one example. There is no discussion of the listening assignments in the context of the examples. There is no explanation or analysis of where the technique can be used. The assignments never extend beyond simple phrases or phrase groups using a single technique. The individual lessons are short,

covering a small number of concepts in each lesson. The quizzes are reiteration of the material and rarely require any consideration. A note about udemy quizzes: In the fill-in-the-blank questions, the answer has to be precisely correct. No synonyms are allowed, and if multiple blanks are present, they must be filled in the specified order. This can be a frustrating limitation, but is not the author's fault.

Book was as expected. I haven't finished it yet, but I have found this book to be an excellent resource to help improve compositional skills and get out of a musical songwriting rut. The book is easy to read and is well written. I highly recommend this book if you are wanting to improve your songwriting (musicianship) skills.

This book is well-organized and easy to follow, and proceeds step by step, with quizzes, listening exercises, and composition assignments for each lesson to put what is learned into practice.

I absolutely loved this book and highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in the topic and has a basic understanding of music theory. The text was easy to follow, interesting, practical, and useful. The assignments were relevant to composing music, and the quizzes were beneficial for reinforcing and applying learning. I've wanted to compose music for quite some time, but this is the first time I've felt equipped to do so. Thank you, Mr. Peters! I can't wait to get started on book 2.

Mr Peters makes gaining and comprehending the concepts of music composition easy by his clear, concise style and the repetition of the main points in a Q&A format at the end of each chapter. Along with the exercises (and the accompanying Udemy course material) the reader can feel confident that they understand what they just read. You could lose yourself in extensive prose in other books or get to the point and learn with this one.

A great amount of information for a very modest price. The course is broken down into very manageable chunks. Other than some very minor technical errors, it's spot on and I have no regrets. In fact, I'm off to get Peters' next book!

Straight forward, clear and organized. Thank you!

Great book/course

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