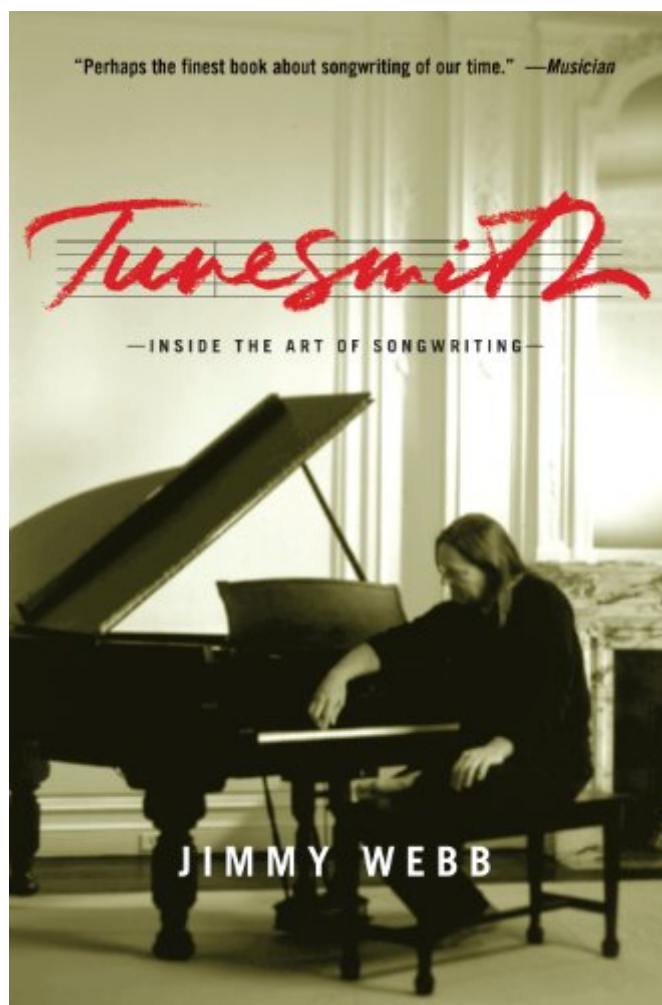


The book was found

Tunesmith: Inside The Art Of Songwriting



Synopsis

Webb brings his insider's knowledge, experience, and star power to the ultimate guide for aspiring songwriters. With a combination of anecdotes, meditation, and advice, he breaks down the creative process from beginning to end--from coping with writer's block, to song construction, chords, and even self-promotion. Webb also gives readers a glimpse into the professional music world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This should have been the first book I bought on the subject of songwriting. Yes, there's good advice about the logistical fabric of the industry here, and maybe now there's more current stuff online; HOWEVER, it is Mr. Webb's philosophy on songwriting that makes this book the gem that it is. Webb manages to convey important aspects of the very elusive nature of the art without killing the magic. On top of that, Mr. Webb's writing is hilarious: this is not a dry read by a long shot-- it is chock full of spectacularly great anecdotes. So, even if you skip a few of the chapters of the technical/ theory stuff, the rest is essential. (You'll eventually want to go back and read those parts because if you're a serious songwriter, you'll find out that those chapters are also utterly genius.)

To be allowed inside the brilliant mind of Jimmy Webb is an absolute privilege. "Tunesmith: Inside the Art of Songwriting" is to songwriting what Robert McKee's "Story" is to screenwriting. This book is more than just a how-to book on writing songs. Yes, you get all the nuts and bolts of chords, melodies, and rhythm and the many ways you can use them to create songs. Yes, you get the lowdown on writing great lyrics. It's all here. All you need to do is have the desire, the passion, and pay attention to Jimmy. I'm not even going to talk about all the wonderful songs he's written. If you don't know that, go do your homework first. Before you do, however, buy this book. If you are serious about your craft, buy this book. This will be the songwriting bible. In addition to the nuts and bolts, you get Jimmy's insight into the business, you get his stories, you get to experience his heart, his love of the craft, and his humble nature after all he has accomplished. The man is brilliant. I don't care what stage of the game you're in, aspiring or otherwise, you will get something from Jimmy in this book. I knew I wanted it when I heard it was coming out. It is everything I imagined it would be and so much more. Do not go without adding "Tunesmith" to your arsenal of songwriting tools.

A unique book which is as important as any book ever written on cotemporary songwriting. It is the very best book in describing the thought processes during the actual composing process!

I thoroughly enjoyed this book from cover to cover. Webb, takes a more in-depth dive into the technical aspects of songwriting than other books I've read. I think even seasoned writers can pick up a few pointers from the master here. He emphasizes the "rules" of songwriting almost to the point of making you think that everything you've done is completely wrong. But he also points out how he has broken the rules and produced hit songs. So, the rules are really guidelines. But every songwriter ought to know the rules before breaking them. I really appreciate how Webb shares personal stories while exploring the emotional roller coaster that songwriters can go through. He also spend some time on the business aspect, although this part is now quite dated. I would love to see an updated second edition. Jimmy?

Like some other reviewers, I'm a longtime musician (primarily a bassist) looking to start getting more serious about songwriting. I found this book to be excellent. There's no need to love the man's material to enjoy the book (or even to know it). My sight reading is pretty limited but that wasn't too much of a hindrance for me. I'd recommend The Artist's Way as a companion book. It echoes a lot of what Jimmy has to say about the creative process in great depth.

Jimmy has vast knowledge of his craft, literally. He has studied it and this is the equivalent of a college course. In fact, it's too in depth at times. But a great read for writers.

What a great book! If you picked up an instrument when you were young, maybe took a couple of music theory and analysis courses along the way, wrote a few songs you sing for friends, and think carefully and critically (in the sense of constructive criticism) about everything musical that you hear in the course of your day--and you listen to everything because that's where your hunger drives you--this book will help you pull it all together. Like so much of my "after 30" education, it has helped me organize what I know and fill in the gaps. There are already 45 reviews here, so there's no need for me to go into any detail about the great lyric-writing and harmony/melody part of the book, so I'll skip to my final thoughts. Most of the book, for me, is literally a re-fresher, a source I can turn to when I suspect that my writing is getting stale. But Chapters 10 and 11 are worth, hands down, the entire price of the book. These are the "reality check" chapters. They're the antidote to the well-intended encouragement that goes something like, "That's a great song. You should record it. You'll make millions." The music biz train has been running for a long time and has a lot of momentum. You've got to be running pretty fast to jump on without hurting yourself. And then you've got to have a lot of Berryman's "inner resources" to be able to hold on, endure the "slings and arrows" of outrageous abuse that is 80% (probably more) of the industry, and still nurture that source of great songs deep within you. This is going on my music reference shelf, next to my Oxford Dictionary of Music, my complete Bach Chorales, my score to the Rite of Spring, several sets of complete lyrics from the Golden Age of American song (including the new Sondheim, Vol. I), and a few other "desert island" volumes I keep next to the front door, to grab on my way out in case of fire.

An informative and readable book on songwriting by one of America's best of the 20th century.

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