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Song Arrangement For The Small Recording Studio: Create Pro Music Productions Using Modern Arrangement Techniques



Synopsis

Overview A great song is much more than good lyrics or a catchy tune and far more than a great mix or a professional master. Many small studios attempt to craft great songs through mixing, mastering and using the latest plugins. They can find themselves distracted by the lure of special FX, EQ moves, and advanced compression techniques in their attempt to create sonic perfection. However, sonic perfection has little value if the very structure - the arrangement and organisation of song elements - is ignored. This book takes an in-depth look at how to create a great song arrangement using a vast range of techniques including pattern manipulation, repetition, and tonal character. The book covers many more techniques, principles and rules for creating great song arrangements, always with the goal of keeping the audience interested, engaged and wanting more. The book gets deeply into the application of Builds, Transitions, and Hooks, while addressing the issues of Groove, Pace, and Complexity. It focuses on the importance of establishing Lead elements in a song and their impact on song listenability. Also discussed, is the principle of arranging musical elements based on their tonal character and how careful placement in the panoramic soundstage can "open up a mix", providing incredible depth and clarity. Summary Song Arrangement for the Small Studio is a well-crafted handbook that provides plenty of relevant theory, explanatory diagrams, relevant song examples, and practical steps for applying it in your own song production projects. It's the perfect resource for mixing engineers that want to go beyond plugins and mixing techniques and take their song productions to the next level.

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Customer Reviews

Why do some recorded songs grab us by the ears and never let go while others seem so boring or commonplace? Certainly, part of the answer lies in the way melodies, rhythms and lyrics are combined in fresh and interesting ways to tell a story or create a mood. But the arrangement plays a huge role too, one that is often overlooked by songwriters laboring alone in their home studios. In his latest book, songwriter, producer and engineer extraordinaire Amos Clarke takes us through a step-by-step process on arranging and producing music that is practical, sensible and easy to follow. No descents into abstruse music theory or hyper-technical discussions about recording technology are to be found here. Instead, Clarke focuses on simple techniques that every songwriter, producer and mix engineer can employ to produce recorded music that delights the listener and keeps them fully engaged from the opening bars through to the fade. Highly recommended.

After several decades in the music world I thought I knew almost everything. With this book I've discovered I needed a deep reflection and better methodology on the arrangement in order to achieve optimal results. The author of the book is undoubtedly a musician, sound engineer and producer, but what has surprised me is that it is a true teacher. Each element of the arrangement has been dissected and then analyzed their mutual interaction in order to discover the basic rules of a good arrangement. Everything is explained with surprising ease, many practical examples and references to well-known songs. An extremely useful methodology of work with Dynamic Maps is also provided. The book's title could have been: "How to make the most effective arrangements easily".

Great lyrics, catchy rhythm, memorable hook, emotional performance, and strong chord progression all contribute to making a song a hit. Arrangement is a rarely discussed, and seldom taught ingredient that songwriters, producers, and mixers alike must use to put a professional polish on a new song. Amos teaches principles, and provides multiple examples of the techniques required.

This is a must read how-to book on song arrangement from the perspective of a published and experienced professional sound engineer, musician, composer, and song writer. You gonna love it!

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