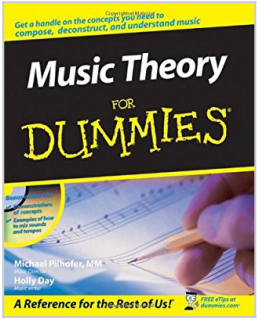

Music Theory For Dummies, with Audio CD-ROM

By Michael Pilhofer, Holly Day

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Many people grimace at the sound of music theory. It can conjure up bad memories of grade school music classes, rattle the brains of college students, and make self-taught musicians feel self-defeated. Music Theory may seem tedious and unnecessary, especially since not many people can read music.

Luckily, *Music Theory for Dummies* shows you the fun and easy way to understanding the concepts needed to compose, deconstruct, and comprehend music. This helpful guide will give you a great grasp of:

- Note value and counting notes
- Treble and bass clefs
- Time signatures and measures
- Naturalizing the rhythm
- Tempo and dynamic
- Tone, color, and harmonics
- Half steps and whole steps
- Harmonic and melodic intervals
- Key signatures and circles of fifths
- Scales, chords, and their progressions
- Elements of form
- Music theory's fascinating history

This friendly guide not only explores these concepts, it provides examples of music to compliment them so you can hear how they sound firsthand. With a bonus CD that demonstrates these ideas with musical excerpts on guitar and piano, this hands-on resource will prove to you that music theory is as enjoyable as it is useful. Don't get discouraged by the seemingly complicated written structure. With *Music Theory for Dummies*, understanding music has never been easier!

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Music Theory For Dummies, with Audio CD-ROM By Michael Pilhofer, Holly Day Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #475281 in Books
- Brand: Brand: For Dummies
- Published on: 2007-04-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .73" w x 7.40" l, 1.24 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 360 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover
Helpful hints on melodies, chords, and music development

The fun and easy way to read, write, and perform any style of music

Need to grasp music theory? This hands-on guide explains the concepts in plain English — from scales, intervals, and tempos to chord progressions, phrasing, harmonizing, and arranging — and shows you how to apply them in compositions ranging from pop and rock to jazz and classical. It's also packed with musical examples you can hear on the CD!

Discover how to:

- Read notes and understand tones
- Keep proper rhythm
- Master major and minor scales
- Build chords and cadences
- Write in popular musical forms

Demonstrations of music theory concepts

Musical examples performed on both piano and guitar

About the Author
Michael Pilhofer teaches music theory and percussion at McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he serves as department head of the Ensembles Department. He has worked as a professional musician for more than 18 years and has toured and recorded with Joe Lovano, Marian McPartland, Kenny Wheeler, Dave Holland, Bill Holman, Wycliffe Gordon, Peter Erskine, and Gene Bertoncini.

Holly Day has written about music for numerous publications internationally, including *Computer Music Journal, ROCKRGRL, Music Alive!, Guitar One, Brutarian Magazine, Interface Technology*, and *Mixdown* magazine. Over the past couple of decades, her writing has received an Isaac Asimov Award, a National Magazine Award, and two Midwest Writer's Grants. Her previous books include *The Insider's Guide to the Twin Cities* (3rd, 4th, and 5th Editions), Shakira, and *Behind the Orange Curtain: A History of Orange County Punk Rock*.

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