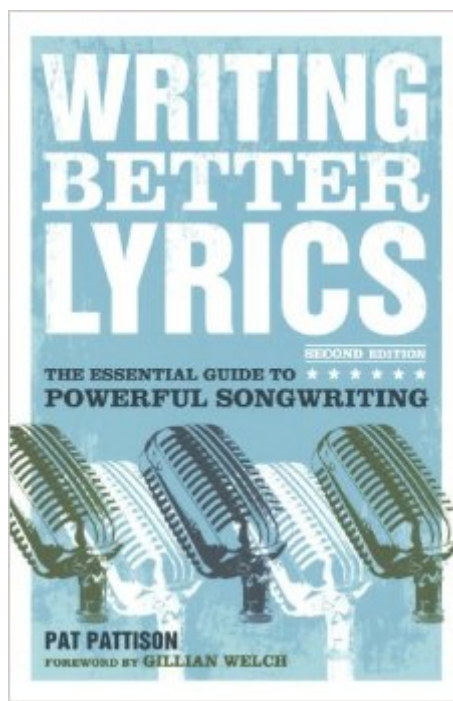


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# Writing Better Lyrics



## Synopsis

The Must-Have Guide for Songwriters *Writing Better Lyrics* has been a staple for songwriters for nearly two decades. Now this revised and updated 2nd Edition provides effective tools for everything from generating ideas, to understanding the form and function of a song, to fine-tuning lyrics. Perfect for new and experienced songwriters alike, this time-tested classic covers the basics in addition to more advanced techniques. Songwriters will discover:

- How to use sense-bound imagery to enhance a song's emotional impact on listeners
- Techniques for avoiding clichés and creating imaginative metaphors and similes
- Ways to use repetition as an asset
- How to successfully manipulate meter
- Instruction for matching lyrics with music
- Ways to build on ideas and generate effective titles
- Advice for working with a co-writer
- And much more

Featuring updated and expanded chapters, 50 fun songwriting exercises, and examples from more than 20 chart-topping songs, *Writing Better Lyrics* gives you all of the professional and creative insight you need to write powerful lyrics and put your songs in the spotlight where they belong.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Writing Better Lyrics" does an excellent job of providing specific examples and tools for mastering the complex craft of lyric writing. The author extends his formal knowledge of poetry to encompass the additional elements that lyrics require, and does so in a readable, non-technical way. However, no single book can cover all the facets and nuances of writing lyrics, especially since there are so many different artistic temperaments and musical styles. Thus, this book is best used in conjunction

with the two other major books for lyricists, *The Craft of Lyric Writing* (the original classic), and *Songcrafters' Coloring Book: The Essential Guide to Effective and Successful Songwriting* (the newest, introducing new ideas based on human nature and detailed song analysis). Used as a group, these three books cover all the subtleties and various approaches to the topic, and are sure to provide useful tools for any type of artistic temperament. Each provides a unique set of examples, techniques and insights which work together to create a synergy that is hard to find in any single book.

As a songwriter, I've always been wary of over-analyzing the magic that delivers songs to me. Some come prompted from a specific instrument, others from the sound of a note or a chord. Others arrive out of the blue, or from an experience. Mostly, I don't set out to write songs, but rather, songs find me. So, in my mind, over-intellectualizing about this magical process has always been a taboo for me. Don't mess with this God given gift, I've told myself again and again. Well, I've been wrong. Pat Pattison's obviously been aware of this for a long time. His book provides tools, tricks, and awareness to enhance a songwriters ideas and craft. He offers activities to evoke the creative process and templates, formulas, and good rules that one may pick and choose to use or apply to one's songs that are just really good stuff. You don't have to do things Pattison's way at all, but if you want to take your craft to another level, the blueprint is here. I've found myself re-visiting songs written 20 + years ago and making changes just because I now realize that it really could be better by applying this set of knowledge or that rationale. I almost signed up to take his on-line Berkley course last week that uses this book, but since I am presently re-reading it for the third time, I'll wait for another one into the future. Songwriters, if you've never read a book that actually gets into the action steps that happen when you write a song, do yourselves a favor and get this book. You can thank me later.

I have never been a lyric writier. I wanted to remedy that deficiency. But do I have the talent, creativity, skills to do it? The books I had bought to help me weren't helping. They dispensed facts. Prosody, rhyme, form, blah, blah. This book is different. Pat is a real, breathing teacher. From the first chapter, he has you on a program designed to rewire the way you think--to harvest the rich garden of word memories you have stored away in your brain. To systematically build tables of nouns and verbs that will serve your song. To then really understand rhyme and prosidy. You learn by doing--not by reading and examining other people's songs. It's all about you and your innate skills plus the necessary new skills to harness them. I feel liberated!

So... being a right-brained songwriter, I have a tendency to buy these books and then only look at them occasionally when I feel stuck in the process. This book inevitably gives me some nuts and bolts way to look at my song differently and get over the hump to a more creative solution. It also helps me refine my songs once I feel they are 'done' and make them even better. Highly recommend it as a tool in your songwriting toolbox.

This is an excellent book which not everyone will like. If you want a book that you can skim through with lots of lists that you can quickly digest, put into use and immediately improve your songwriting, then buy something else like Robin Frederick's book "Shortcuts to Hit Songwriting: 126 Proven Techniques for Writing Songs That Sell", which is a great book in its own right: (<http://www..com/Shortcuts-Hit-Songwriting-Techniques-Writing/dp/0982004001> ). This book requires work, dedicated concentration and more than anything else, practice. You can easily live with this book for 6 months or more. Pattison's approach is very analytical and it deals only with lyrics and how to communicate them in a way that best transmits the emotional effect which the songwriter has in mind. The book goes far beyond Pattison's Coursera Songwriting course and his Youtube video lectures. I have found that for me, his techniques work best in rewriting my songs. There is so much here, that it is difficult to implement it all in the real-time process of songwriting. But once I have written a song, I can go back and apply his techniques to improve my songs. Especially interesting is his technique to use the 5 rhyme-types (perfect, family, additive/subtractive, assonance, consonance) and a rhyming dictionary as a search engine to brainstorm ideas to write a song from a concept or a title. I have never heard anyone else use this method, but I find that not only does it work for me, it also opens my ear to more easily find rhymes other than the perfect rhyme. Some people will not have the patience to work through this book, and for them, it will be a waste of money to buy. But I really like the book and it has taught me a lot of useful information to improve my songwriting.

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