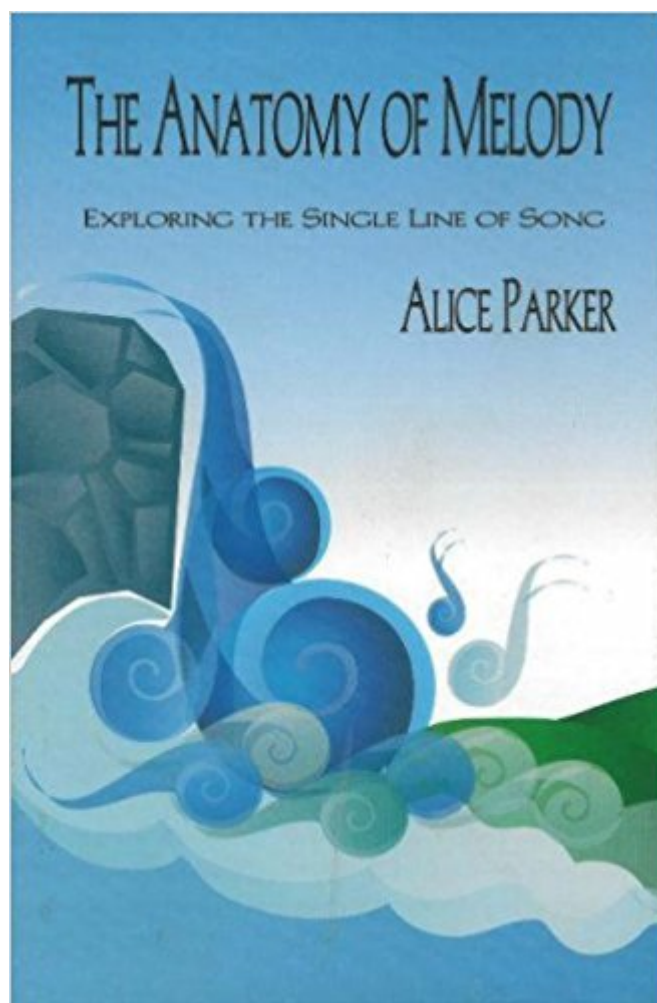


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Anatomy Of Melody: Exploring The Single Line Of Song



Synopsis

Drawn from the world's most beloved songs, the more than 70 examples in this book explore the history and crucial elements of melody, which is the very basis of song. Focusing solely on how simple musical lines combined with the right texts can make a catchy melodic phrase that lasts throughout the ages; without consideration of harmony, counterpoint or other constructs; this unique guide allows readers a new insight into the composition of songs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Alice Parker is a composer who wrote her first orchestral score while still in high school. She has been commissioned by such groups as the Vancouver Chamber Chorus, the Atlanta Symphony Chorus, and Chanticleer, and is the founder of Melodious Accord, Inc., which has received generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Copland Foundation, and the New York State Council for the Arts. She lives in Hawley, Massachusetts.

I borrowed this book from my local library and found it so exciting that I bought my own copy. Alice Parker codifies and shares ideas that I've been experimenting with since 2007 in a beautiful, readable, engaging format. No special background is required to appreciate this book, and if you're a formally-trained choral director Ms. Parker's recommendations to use the printed music only as a reminder to singers who already know how the music goes will completely confound you. But I can attest that if you follow her advice, the sound of your ensembles will change completely, and your singers will be tightly engaged in the process of creating the music at every rehearsal in a way that

you will all find completely enlivening. There's great insight here for singers and songwriters too, and even for instrumentalists. I sure wish I'd known about this book when I started my experiments in 2007, but I'm extremely glad to have discovered it now.

A fellow songwriter shared this book with me and then I bought my own copy. Alice Parker's "Anatomy of a Melody" is a must read for singers, composers and arrangers of all kinds of music. It is inspiring and insightful and simultaneously full of that rare kind of joy for one's calling that is so rare in our world. Bravo!

Read this book if you are a musician, composer, or one who appreciates music and wants to understand its essence. Alice Parker, composer and former assistant to Robert Shaw, believes that the essence of music is melody, and that we are in danger of losing the ability to write and detect melody because of our obsession with rhythm. In this richly enjoyable book, Parker urges us to fall in love with the text and find anew the rhythm of language.

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