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**Berklee In the Pocket
Essential Songwriter**

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Part I

Power Progressions

Press ESC to cancel sound.

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just like this one.



Berklee is offering free music lessons online designed to expand educational opportunities for musicians around the globe. The music lessons are available for free download from the Berkleeshares.com Web site and via a growing network of partner Web sites. These free music lessons are also available on digital file sharing networks. We encourage people to share our lessons with other musicians. While Berklee strongly disapproves of stealing copyrighted music online, we believe that file sharing offers new opportunities for musicians to learn, and to promote and distribute their work.



1. Power Progressions

Most hit songs are based on one of the following chord progressions. These progressions have a natural balance and gravity to them. They make songs feel soundly crafted, and create a sense of inevitability—that they are the “right” way for the chords to follow each other, and for the songs to progress. We call them *power progressions* because they do have power. They have been at the heart of countless songs, in all different styles of music, across many cultures and musical eras. These are the essential chord progressions that have rocked the world for as long as music has been based on harmony.

By customizing these progressions to different keys, grooves, harmonic rhythms, and other variations mentioned in part II of this handbook, you can use them to create an infinite number of songs.

Each key color has its own power progressions. To use one of these progressions in your songwriting, choose the one that seems to best suit your lyrics or melody, and then apply it to a key. Charts are shown with each type of key, indicating which chords go with which scale degrees, so you can use these progressions in any key. The triads are the essential chords; sevenths, indicated in parentheses, can be added, for extra color. The charts include suggested fretboard diagrams for guitarists and notated seventh chords for keyboard players.

The actual voicing you choose will depend on the progression, your melody, and your lyric story.

Once you have a progression and a key, groove on them, and use the ideas throughout this book to customize the progression to your lyrics. Power progressions are just the starting point for your grooves. Use your imagination to grow them into something unique.

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Lyric Writing: Tools and Strategies

Generate better ideas, find the right words to express those ideas, and organize rhythms and rhymes into compelling verses, choruses and bridges.



Songwriting Workshop: Hit Songs Forms

Move your listeners and express yourself more effectively by crafting your songs the way hit writers do.



Arranging 1

Essential learning for anyone interested in arranging music for a band, Arranging 1 explores all aspects of writing and arranging for the rhythm section..



Master Certificate in Songwriting

Become a master in the art of songwriting and lyric writing with our Master Songwriting certificate. This extensive program arms you with all the tools needed to develop your ideas into complete, engaging, effective songs.

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Books and DVDs from Berklee Press



Songwriter's Workshop: Melody

Learn the fundamental techniques behind today's hit songs, together with easy-to-follow exercises, so you can apply these tools to your own art. Quit wrestling with writer's block.



Songwriter's Workshop: Harmony

Learn how harmony can help you express your songwriting ideas—using chords and chord structures the way that professional songwriters do.



Songwriting: Essential Guide to Rhyming

Rhyme is one of the most crucial areas of lyric writing, and this guide will provide you with all the information necessary to develop your skills. Make rhyme work for you and your writing will greatly improve.



Finale: An Easy Guide to Music Notation, Second Edition

Designed for both novice and experienced Finale users, the step-by-step instructions will help you master all of Finale's capabilities. This detailed guide is your shortcut to getting Finale working for you.

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