SongWritersNotes

The Newsletter for San Diego Songwriters

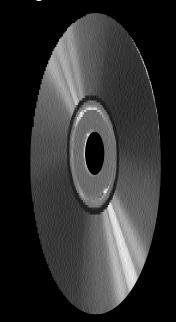
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Songwriters Guild

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NEW DATE! Monday, June 12, 2000

SDSG PITCH WITH MONICA BENSON

Says publisher Monica Benson, "I'm looking for great songs in every style. I know that might sound vague but it's true."

Monica Benson joins SDSG on **Monday, June 12 at the Doubletree Hotel.** Specific ideas she suggests are songs for Christine Aguilerra, Backstreet Boys, Jennifer Lopez, Latin songs ("like Ricky Martin or Enrique Iglesias") great uptempos in any style ("Everyone seems to need up-tempos more than ballads") and songs in the styles of Celine Dion, Mariah Carey and Sheryl Crowe.

Monica's covers include Leslie Carter (coming out on DreamWorks in June), Dana Dawson, Jonathan Butler, Phil Perry, Jonathan Pierce, Anita Baker, Simply Red, Innosense (Lou Perlman's next group), Three Little Women, Christian Davis, Divine and Precious. Monica has also had songs recorded by Judy Cheeks, Louise, Peabo Bryson, Jody Watley, Diane Schuur, Divine, The Temptations, Patti Austin, Phyllis Hyman and Sandino and has placed songs in TV shows like NOW AND AGAIN, JACK AND JILL, FELICITY, CHARMED, BEVERLY HILLS 90210, MELROSE PLACE and movies like RUNAWAY BRIDE, THE SIXTH MAN, SPECIES II, and DEEP BLUE SEA.

Clearly, this session offers SDSG writers a **fantastic opportunity** to meet and pitch for a powerhouse publisher with a great track record. Song submissions are \$10.00 each, limited to 2 per writer of team of writers. Admission to the event is FREE to SDSG members, \$20.00 for non-members. Please see "The Pitch Session" on page 8 for details and guidelines. Register at **6:30 PM**. **The session will begin at 7:00.**

-Ellen Silverstein

JOHN DAWES AND TIM SWEENEY PRESENT

HIT SONGS ON THE Internet

Does MP3.com really sell CDs?

Does the Record Industry really lose money online?

See Page 5 for Details!

From the President's Desk . . .

My favorite line from Joseph Heller's classic novel, Catch 22, is "It is neither possible nor necessary to educate people who never question anything." It is also not possible to educate people who never come to a class or a seminar. In my years with the guild, we have presented many seminars by music industry insiders about the craft of songwriting,

about the music business, and about networking in the music business. These distinguished guests have shared incredibly important information, yet our attendance at these functions is usually less than half what we get for a typical pitch session.

On Saturday, May 20th, the Guild hosted a seminar on melody writing presented by Jai Josefs, author of the excellent book "Writing Music for Hit Songs." With a price of \$35 for advance registration, the workshop was quite a bargain. The place should have been packed, but only 12 people showed up! Those of us who did attend got more than our money's worth - partially because of the size of the group, but mostly because Jai is a great teacher. Of course the beach was probably beautiful that day.

Let's face it. The act of becoming a successful songwriter does not take place in a vacuum. You can't do it alone. Music is a BUSINESS! Being in the music business means networking with other serious songwriters, producers and artists. The more you learn about the business, the greater your chances of success.

Some people may think they can learn nothing from seminars. If you feel that way, let me ask you this - do your songs get picked up every time? Have you written a hit song? Is your music currently being used in movies or getting radio airplay? Or is it sitting on a shelf? Some individuals come to pitch session and pitch the same song or songs over and over again. They get the same feedback every time, and yet keep pitching without ever changing anything. These same individuals rarely attend seminars.

I am not advertising seminars so the guild (a not-for-profit corporation) can make money. We offer these workshops as a service so that you, our members, may become better songwriters, may become more knowledgeable about the business, and have an opportunity to become successful. I am not an expert on songwriting. That's why I go to every seminar the guild presents. I also go to seminars and workshops outside the guild. I've had a few songs picked up, but that does not make me an expert. I want to learn much more. Even seasoned veterans of the music industry can always learn more.

I encourage you to come to our seminars. Get to know some people you don't know. Ask questions. You might just find that golden tidbit of information you need to make it in the music business.

-Tony Taravella

What's Going On?

Monday, June 12, Publisher **Monica Benson** joins SDSG at the **Doubletree** for a wide-ranging pitch session. See our cover story for details, and do not miss this opportunity to meet and greet (and pitch) this well-connected publisher.

Catch SDSG Performers at the **Del Mar Fair** on **Sunday, June 25.** The show runs from **6 to 9 PM** at **Albertson's Infield** and features **Bishop Jones, Bob Duffy, Doug Ingle Jr, Tony Taravella** and **Melanie Ray Brown**. Don't miss it!

June 26 brings a great chance to learn at TrackStar Studios. Join SDSG and Josquin des Pres at 7 PM... see page 5 for details.

Also on June 26, you can catch SDSG members performing at the Del Mar Fair for the **SLAMM Acoustic Day**. SDSG performers include **Dana LeeWood**, **Jennifer McNally (Diamond In The Rough)** and **Bob Duffy**. The show starts at **1 PM**.

SDSG presents another Live Showcase at Mikey's Coffee on Wednesday, July 5 from 8 to 11 PM. 12222 Poway Road, Poway.

John Dawes and Tim Sweeney won't **www**aste your time... catch 'em at the **Doubletree** Hotel at **7 PM** on **Monday, July 10** to learn how to release your songs on the internet. Registration starts at **6:30**. See page 5 for more about this important event.

Steve White will be previewing his new CD "House of Bones" at the EAT-M convention where he'll be performing on June 8 and again at the S.D. Blues Festival on June10. (Look for his TV spot filmed by satellite video.) Steve will be doing 7 shows at the Del Mar Fair starting on June 16. For booking information, e-mail Steve at sew@earthlink.net or phone 760.753.5587.

The Second Annual Southern Utah Songwriting School runs June 30 thru July 3, 2000. Call Trish Gale at (435) 673-1437 tgale@infowest.com for more info on this four day session of hands-on classes.

The Northern California Songwriters Association's 2000 Song Contest is coming up. Prize winners will be announced at CREATION:CRAFT:CONNECTION 2000, NCSA's 20th Annual Songwriters Conference, on September 9, 2000. August 15 is the cut off date for entries. For info email info@ncsasong.org or phone (650) 654-3966.



Music at the Movies Marcus Barone

Marcus Barone joined SDSG for a unique film source music workshop on Monday, May 15. This composer, musician and music supervisor, who's experience includes serving as Director of Music for Orion Pictures/MPCA and music supervision projects for Motion Picture Corp. of America, Destination Pictures and Universal, spent an enlightening evening with SDSG at the Doubletree Hotel. Attendees had the chance to hear their music in the context of several different movie scenes, and I, for one, was amazed at the way different sounds and songs elicited different emotional responses. We enjoyed a couple of synchronous surprises, notably with tunes from Paul Montesano and Phyllis Baratz Fishleder. Marcus even selected several of our members' CDs for future consideration in sound-forpicture applications.

This event was a first for SDSG, and helped us better understand the science and the magic of mating sound with picture. Marcus also discussed his newest project, a television show which has been optioned by a major player in the TV world. Marcus will be looking for specific musical talents in the near future to support the show's great pretext... We'll share more with SDSG members as things develop, so be sure to keep reading Songwriters Notes.

Marcus Barone's many talents have been utilized during years of work in film music. His credits include "Dumb And Dumber", "KingPin", "Gang Related", "If Lucy Fell", and great new projects like "Bats" and Warner Bros "Lakeboat". His willingness to share his time with us in this educational forum is sincerely appreciated by all who attended. Thank you Marcus for a great session!

- Mark "HC Markus" Hattersley

"Love Notes" from SDSG

Benefitting San Diego Children's Hospital

At last! A superb collection of some of SDSG's great writers' work is available on compact disc. Produced by Pro Member Nairobi Sailcat, the 13-song CD "Love Notes" includes cuts by Grammy-nominated songwriter Ellen Silverstein, 1998 SDSG Song Contest winner Dana Lee Wood, and a cut by Nairobi Sailcat and 1999 SDSG Contest winner & Grammy nominee Sunny Hilden. Paul Montesano, Markus Van Such (writer Mark "HC Markus" Hattersley won SDSG's 1994 song contest), Bishop Jones, Melanie Ray Brown, Janet Snare, Doug Ingle Jr., Phyllis Fishleder and Joan Kurland are also featured.

The compilation covers a wide range of musical styles ranging from pop & r&b, to country and jazz. Whatever your musical tastes, you'll find music you like in this collection.

Proceeds from the sale of the CD will be donated to San Diego Children's Hospital Music Program. If you'd like to hear this great CD for yourself, and support music for kids at the same time, please send your \$15.00 check or Money Order payable to SDSG to San Diego Songwriters Guild, 3368 Governor Drive, Suite F-326, San Diego, CA 92122. Please be sure to include your name, address and telephone number with your order.

- Bob Duffy

SDSG News Makers

Steve White is just finishing up his new CD, recorded at Studio West with Dan Milner producing. It's a 12 song blues album titled "House of Bones" that takes you from the cocktail lounge to the delta and back. For information, e-mail sew@earthlink.net or phone 760.753.5587

Oram Miller reports that San Diego's own World Music Radio has moved to a dot-com address... worldmusicradio.com Word is that Tony Taravella is tuning up his deep speaking voice as he prepares to host a show on worldmusicradio.com

John Dawes has been enjoying the rush of finding his new book "The Complete Guide to Internet Promotion for Musicians, Artists, & Songwriters" selling out at Amazon.com. Don't miss John and his co-author, Tim Sweeny, when they appear at SDSG's July 10 Web Forum... see the article on page 5 for details.

This Easter, Vista Grande Church in Tierra Santa was the site of the world premier of an original musical exploring different view-points of who Jesus is.

"This Messiah" was written by SDSG's own jeanine with orchestral arrangements by Aaron Gayden. God's inspiration was clearly experienced, as demonstrated by the choir's standing ovation.

HC Markus and David Van Such wowed the crowd at the 20th Annual Muscular Dystrophy Association Tailgate Party . The boys managed to drop by Studio 69 after the show to sweeten tracks for their soon to be released sophomore CD, Sweet Bites. You can get a taste of Sweet Bites on SDSG's Compilation CD, available now.

<u>HCMarkus@aol.com</u> or call the SDSG Hotline and leave a message to share <u>your</u> success story.

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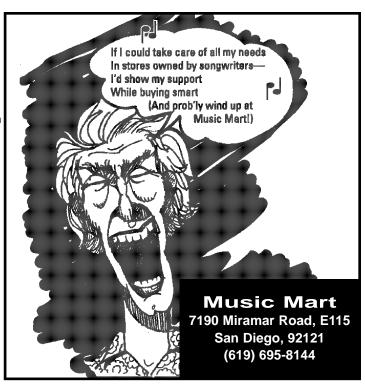
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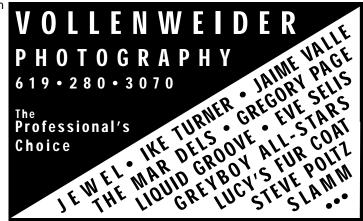
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Jai Josefs MELODY SEMINAR

Jai Josefs was AWESOME!

We were initially disappointed at the showing for Jai's workshop on May 20. Usually, when he does seminars in Nashville, he has literally hundreds of participants. However, our dozen students turned out to be a truly intimate group and, before he left, even Jai was glad he missed the Lakers game!

For those who get comments like " This is really close but..." at pitch sessions, Jai is the only speaker I've ever heard who can objectively describe specific techniques to **improve** melodies. He taught workshop participants how to check melodies against specific criteria, just as most of us know to check lyrics for rhyme and rhythm. And yes, after the class I did a re-write on one of my 'old favorites, and even my daughter likes it better!

We hope Jai will return to San Diego again soon to further explore the intricacies of melody and music. I encourage everyone interested in bettering their songwriting to check out Jai's book "Writing Music for Hit Songs." Time spent with Jai Josefs is well worth the price of admission.

- jeanine

Josquin des Pres June 26

Visit TrackStar Studios and spend an educational evening with renowned producer/composer Josquin des Pres. Attendees will participate in an informal discussion on subjects ranging from demos, to song writing to production tricks. In short, this is your chance to pick the brains of a successful studio owner who's talents and achievements range far beyond the soundproof walls of TrackStar Studios.

Josquin des Pres has produced Buckfast Superbee, Mary Dolan, Shuggie, Lisa Sanders and numerous international, national and local projects. He has recently been focusing his energies on MCA Records artists The Young Dubliners, as the band breaks its latest release across America. Josquin is currently a staff writer with Sunset Blvd Entertainment. A former Warner Bros. songwriter and long-time collaborator with Elton John's lyricist Bernie Taupin, Josquin has numerous covers by international artists. Josquin has also written many books on the art and business of music, including "Creative Careers in Music" and "Reality Check - A Guide to Finding Success as a Musician."

TrackStar's equipment combines the warmth of tube/analog dynamic processors, the precision of 20 bit digital recorders and a large selection of microphones and outboard gear. The studio's mastering facilities are equipped with the latest in CD mastering technology. A comfortable environment which has a "living room on the Starship Enterprise" feel about it, TrackStar is a place musicians can capture the often elusive hit record vibe at very reasonable rates. For more on Josquin and Track Star, visit Track Star Studios.com.

Join SDSG and **Josquin** at **TrackStar**. Admission is free to all SDSG members, \$10 for non-members. The session will begin at **7 PM** sharp on **Monday**, **June 26**. Don't be late, as space is limited at this special event.

TrackStar is located at 7242 University Avenue, La Mesa, CA 91941 (619) 697-7827

-Mark "HC Markus" Hattersley

Internet Promotion July 10

Does MP3.com really sell CDs? Are record labels really losing money online? Find out as the authors of the new book, "The Complete Guide to Internet Promotion for Musicians, Artists, & Songwriters," Tim Sweeney and John Dawes, discuss these topics and more at SDSG's **July 10** seminar.

Tim Sweeney is the author of the international best seller, "Tim Sweeney's Guide To Releasing Independent Records." In the last few years, his seminars and in-stores have been attended by over 20,000 artists, musicians, songwriters and music industry professionals. Tim is one of the industry's most respected experts in the areas of artist development, record promotion, distribution and retail marketing.

John Dawes is an independent internet music consultant who has educated thousands of artists on how to effectively promote their music on the internet. He is the founder of Taco Truffles Media and online resources, MusicPromotion.net & IndiePromo.com. Over the last few years John has helped record labels, artists, & songwriters develop their online personae and has championed independent artists through online chat "lectures," talk radio, and workshops.

Even if you don't have a web site or aren't sure if having a web site is necessary, you *must* **attend this seminar.** Learn how email can damage your offline presence; what legal issues can impact your potential for online exposure; how to protect your music online; what a successful web site should look like; and more!!!

To get a sneak peak, visit: http://www.musicpromotion.net/webguide. Registration starts at **6:30pm** on **Monday, July 10**. SDSG members admitted free. Non-members admission is \$20.00. SDSG accepts new members at every meeting, so come on down and join us!

LAURA PREBLE BAND TO OPEN FOR STEELY DAN CONCERT JUNE 9

On Friday, June 9th, the Laura Preble Band will be performing on the Plaza stage at Coors Amphitheater, 2050 Entertainment Circle, Chula Vista (619-220-8497), from 6pm to 7:30pm, opening for Steely Dan, who will take the stage at 8pm.

The Laura Preble Band recently returned to the studio to begin recording the follow-up album to "Voices In My Head," Laura's critically acclaimed 1998 CD. Initial recording is taking place at PH Pro studios in Escondido, where the compilation album "Wildthings" was recorded last year. Pete Harrison is engineering. The band will record additional tracks at Josquin de Pres Track Star Studios.

In addition to Laura's singing, piano-playing, and songwriting, the band also features Chris Klich on sax, clarinet, and flute; Chuck Schiele, recently of local favorites The Modern Peasants, on guitar; Barry Brown on guitar and keyboards; Harry Hache on bass; and Pete Woods on drums. For more information, call (619) 462-8048, or check Laura's website, LauraPreble.com

Seminar with Alex Del Zoppo

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2000: NSAI SPECIAL EVENT, 1 pm-6 pm. Songwriting Seminar with Alex Del Zoppo of the band SWEETWATER at the Stratford Inn California Room, 710 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA. Alex is a songwriter and keyboard player for the first band to perform live at the original Woodstock in 1969! His song "In a Rainbow" was a VH-1 video last fall when the VH-1 original movie "Sweetwater" debuted. To register, send \$25 to Liz Axford c/o San Diego NSAI, PO Box 85, Del Mar, CA, 92014-0085 ASAP as space is limited. Come prepared with questions and a song

Call Liz Axeford at 858-481-5650 for details.

for critique.

Nash Camp Workshop Leaders Announced

NashCamp director Cindy Sinclair has announced workshop leaders for Songwriting Week, June 25-30, 2000. With close proximity to Music Row, NashCamp is a good place to network in the country music industry. There is an emphasis on the world of commercial writing and every effort is made to have your song heard and critiqued by someone deeply involved in the "Nashville machinery".

¥ Hit writer/workshop leaders:John Jarrard, Rick Carnes, Casey Kelly

Publishers/Critiques:
 John Van Meter of Sony/Tree and
 Eddie Tidwell from Muy Bueno Music
 (George Strait's publishing company)
 Industry speakers:

Harry Warner of BMI Nashville, Rundi Reams of Songwriters Guild Of America and Mike Doyle, ASCAP Craft of Songwriting teachers:

Craft of Songwriting teachers: Sara Light and Danny Arena

NashCamp is held in a restored Victorian mansion, a beautiful setting for this great retreat.

For more info call toll free 888-798-5012 or visit the website www.nashcamp.com

Personnel Department

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER SDSG is looking for someone to assist with the Guild's membership database and mailings. Please call the SDSG Hotline to volunteer.

SONGWRITER, GUITARIST, looking to collaborate with other songwriter musicians for feedback and improvement. Could definitely use a real vocalist. Call Karl at 619-281-9664 karlnw@aol.com

SONGWRITER, COMPOSER from Switzerland (french and english speaker) is looking for a lyricist collaborator to write english lyrics in the Pop, Top 40 style. Yves Durr (858) 273-2151 Ouarg@hotmail.com

ORDER the SDSG "Love Notes" CD now... see the article on page 3. Why not give a copy to a friend?

DO YOU HAVE A GREAT MUSIC BUSINESS STORY?

If you do, see the article on page 7 of this issue of SongWriters Notes.

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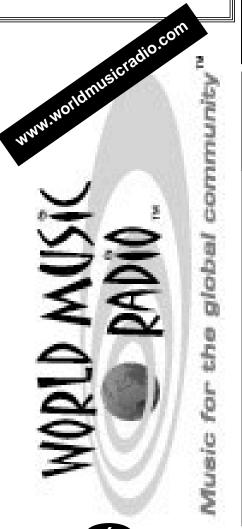
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and would like to submit a short 100 to 500 word story for consideration, please visit my web site and take a look. The book will pay a modest royalty to contributing writers, and will be distributed to our fellow music-industry folk. Details can be found at:

http://www.goodnightkiss.com/rules.html

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PITCH SESSION"

PRODUCERS, PUBLISHERS, A&R REPRESENTATIVES, MANAGERS and ARTISTS may screen for a specific recording project. They use these events to find songs, singers, musicians, etc. Our guests may critique your song and give you valuable feedback on how you could improve upon it if time permits. The guest may "pick-up" your song which means they would like to hear it again for further consideration.

Submission Rules

- One song per Guild Member will be listened to before those of Non-Members.
- On exceptionally busy nights, we reserve the option to limit the number of tapes submitted by an individual to any event. This option applies equally to those members submitting tapes by mail. We ask that writers number their tapes, #1 being your first choice, #2 you second, so that we may play them according to your priorities.
- Due to time limits, we cannot guarantee that your song will be heard in the Pitch Session.

- For the admission price of \$10 per song (limit 1 to 2 songs per writer, varies with guests), you may enter your song(s) for the Pitch Session. Members may sign up tapes in advance.
 If you want more than one song in any event, it is \$10 for each additional tape.
- You may join The San Diego Songwriters Guild on the night of an event for a \$45 yearly membership fee. Non-members are charged a \$20 door fee in addition to tape submission fees. The door fee must be paid by non-members wishing to pitch songs.

How It Works

- Bring neatly typed lyric sheet and cassette cued to the beginning of the song you want
- Tapes will not be accepted for the Pitch Session after the start of the event.
- Be sure to include your name and phone number on both your lyric sheet and your tape because they may get separated.
- The Pitch Session is limited to 70 tapes. Once event is filled, sign up is closed, even if the event has not started. SDSG reserves the right to limit the number of submissions further.
- When you check in your tape, sign in all names of writers, song title and phone number, so that others who hear your song can contact you.
- Tapes will be referred to by song title. Writers may or may not remain anonymous during the Pitch session depending on our guest for that event.

Join the San Diego Songwriters Guild. Membership dues are \$45.00 annually. Timely renewals are \$40.00 per year. Be a part of your San Diego music community!

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The RHYTHM of the MELODY

by Harrriet Schock

DON'T YOU THINK ALL THESE CDs we have to listen to should be tax deductible? I mean it's very important to study what's going on, not only from a lyrical standpoint and a harmonic standpoint or even a melodic standpoint. But have you also listened to that little thing called "the rhythm of the melody"?

I used to have a friend who would tap out rhythms on my arm and see if I could guess the melody. Sometimes, it would be so distinctive, I could. Try tapping out the melody to "As Time Goes By," on someone's arm and see if he/she can guess it. Or "America" from West Side Story. If your friends give up, hum it for them without words and they'll hit their heads like someone in a V-8 commercial. The truth is, in both of these old songs, the rhythm is very distinctive. But it's also true of most songs that the rhythm of the melody is as important to its personality as facial features are to a person's appearance. It just seems to be the part of melody that gets discussed the least.

It's an interesting exercise to spend a week listening only to rhythm of melody. Whenever the radio is on, or a CD, hone in on that one facet. See where the melody starts in relation to the count of "one." See if it's relatively on the beat or on an "and" or an "oh" as in "3-oh-and-uh"—in other words, syncopated. See if the verse differs from the chorus in this regard. Never mind the shape of the melody or its interaction with the chords right now, we're just listening for the rhythm of the notes that are sung.

Consider the song mentioned above, "As Time Goes By." The subtle syncopation is so nice in the phrases that repeat. "You must remember this," sets up the sequence that repeats rhythmically and even though they're on different scale degrees over different chords, the rhythm of that melody is the same through three phrases—

actually four, but on the fourth, it's added to. So the rhythm of "You must remember this" is identical to "a kiss is still a kiss" as is the rhythm to "a sigh is just a sigh." Then when we get to "The fundamental things," the phrase continues and adds beats. Of course, the writer (Herman Hupfeld) didn't think this mathematically when it was written, but when we analyze songs to figure out what was done instinctively, it sometimes gets mathematical.

Melody rhythm can make a song sound either hip and soulful or straight and goofus. There's nothing

that points up more clearly the difference between a hip rhythm and a dorky one than hearing a bad piped-in music rendition of a well-known song. You know, the kind that sounds like a nerd quantized it. Shopping can



become a frightening experience when you suddenly hear a Michael Jackson tune arranged like a polka. (Imagine a Lawrence Welk rendition of "Bad" and you're starting to get the picture.) So when you ask yourself what is it that makes a totally cool melody into something you'd be embarrassed to be associated with, when the notes are identical in pitch: it's the rhythm of the melody. I've actually had people play me versions of my own songs that so radically changed the rhythm of the melody, that it seemed like a Halloween costume version of what I considered to be a designer garment. And they'd turn to me and say, "You wrote that, right?" And I'd really want to say, "No, I wrote something that sounds a little like that, but what I wrote goes like this."

Because this element in melody frequently goes unexplored or unacknowledged, people can be deaf to it and not know it. They can sing your song and change the rhythm of the melody drastically and think they're doing their version of it. Now, sometimes they can do their version of it, changing it and it's still great. Nancy Wilson recently recorded something of mine and I loved what she did. But she's a master.

Rhythm and feel and style are so intricately bound up that it's hard to talk about rhythm without dividing it into styles. But if you want to study rhythm of melody all in one album, you can get the Annie Lennox "Medusa" CD. She has songs by writers as divergent in styles as Neil Young and Al Green, Paul Simon and Bob Marley. Listen to the verse melody on the Green/Hodges tune "Take Me To The River," and compare it to the prechorus melody and the chorus melody. They're totally different, and yet each one is wonderful. The rhythm of all melodic sections vary tremendously. Of course, doing this drill with one of Annie's CDs is a pleasure because she's such a wonderful interpreter, whether she's singing her own incredible songs as on the "Diva" CD or other people's, as she does on the new "Medusa."

So if you get an IRS auditor who complains that you're deducting all these CDs as research, you should explain that you're investigating the rhythm of melody. After all, just 'cause it's pleasurable doesn't mean it isn't work.

* * *

Harriet Schock wrote the Grammynominated standard, "Ain't No Way To Treat A Lady," and co-wrote "First Time On A Ferris Wheel," plus many other songs for records and films. Her solo album. American Romance, produced and directed by Nik Venet, was recently released on Godsdog Records and she co-wrote all the songs for the ABC animated "The Secret Garden." She is founder of the Harriet Schock School of Songwriting, which offers private consultation and correspondence courses.

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