



Music Production: For Producers, Composers, Arrangers, and Students

By Michael Zager

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Music Production: For Producers, Composers, Arrangers, and Students By Michael Zager

The guidance of a skilled music producer will always be a key factor in producing a great recording. In that sense, as Michael Zager points out in his second edition of *Music Production: For Producers, Composer, Arrangers, and Students*, the job of a music producer is analogous to that of a film director, polishing work product to its finest sheen. And this is no small matter in an age when the recording industry is undergoing its most radical change in over half a century.

Although innate talent and experience are key elements in the success of any music producer, *Music Production* serves as a roadmap for navigating the continuous changes in the music industry and music production technologies. From dissecting compositions to understanding studio technologies, from coaching vocalists to arranging and orchestration, from musicianship to marketing, advertising to promotion, *Music Production* takes readers on a whirlwind tour of the world of music production, letting readers keep pace with this rapidly changing profession.

The focus of the second edition is on such topics as the expanded role of music supervisors, the introduction of new production techniques, and the inclusion of new terms in music industry contracts. Including new interviews with eminent industry professionals, *Music Production* is the ideal handbook for the aspiring music production student and music professional.

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Editorial Review

Review

This updated, second edition of *Music Production* focuses on the topics of the role of music supervisors, new production techniques, and the updated terms being used in modern-day music contracts. It still includes many of the same valuable tips and tricks of the trade that the author focused on in the first edition (Scarecrow Press, 2006), but includes new information that will keep music producers up-to-date in today's fast-changing industry. After an introduction and a chronology of the music recording industry, the work is broken down into three sections: Music Production; Recording Technology; and The Music Business. Music Production, the lengthiest of the sections, focuses on creative concepts, songwriting, arrangement and orchestration, mixing and mastering, music videos, and the production process. It concludes with two chapters on the history of popular music. Recording Technology provides two chapters on working in the studio and audio engineering. The final section, The Music Business, discusses marketing and promotion, creating a business plan and album production budget, and music contracts. The work concludes with a bibliography and an index. This well-researched volume touches on all aspect of the music production business and would be useful as a reference work in music libraries or a textbook in the classroom. It should be in all university music reference collections. (*American Reference Books Annual*)

About the Author

Michael Zager is professor of Music, Dorothy F. Schmidt Eminent Scholar in Performing Arts, and director of Commercial Music at Florida Atlantic University. He is the author of *Writing Music for Television and Radio Commercials and More* (Scarecrow, 2008) and *Music Production* (Scarecrow, 2006).

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David Anthony:

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