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# A Practical Guide to Musical Composition

## Presentation

The following is the table of contents of my book: *A Practical Guide to Musical Composition*. Its aim is to discuss fundamental principles of musical composition in concise, practical terms, and to provide guidance for student composers. Many practical aspects of the craft of composition, especially concerning form, are not often discussed in ways useful to an apprentice composer; that is to say, ways that help to solve common problems. Thus, this will not be a "theory" text, nor an analysis treatise, but rather a guide to some of the basic tools of the trade.

This book is the first in a series of four. The others are: Counterpoint, Orchestration, Harmony .

### 1. Introduction

- ∞ Why this book?
- ∞ Stylistic Assumptions
- ∞ Forms and Form
- ∞ Using this book as a textbook
- ∞ Sources
- ∞ A final note

### 2. Basic Notions

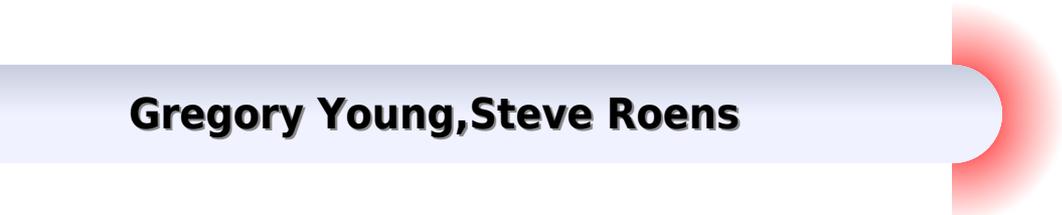
- ∞ Foreground vs. Background
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- ∞ Progression
- ∞ Momentum
- ∞ Balance
- ∞ Balance and Length

### 3. Beginning

- ∞ Psychological functions of structural elements

# A Practical Guide To Musical Composition

**Gregory Young, Steve Roens**



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