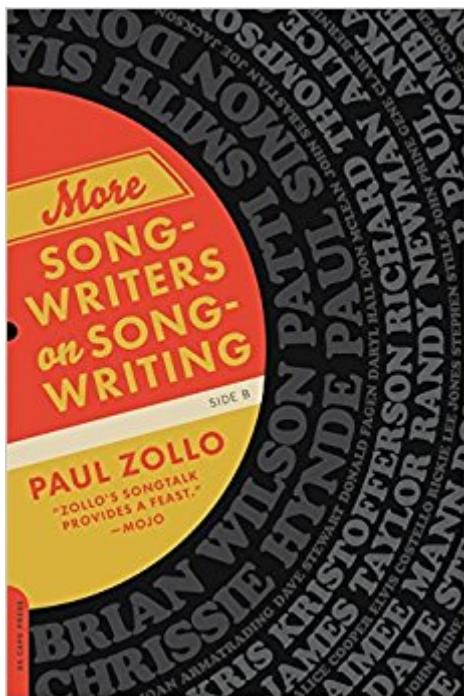


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# More Songwriters On Songwriting



## Synopsis

The long-awaited sequel to *Songwriters on Songwriting*, often called "the songwriter's bible," *More Songwriters on Songwriting* goes to the heart of the creative process with in-depth interviews with many of the world's greatest songwriters. Covering every genre of popular music from folk, rock 'n' roll, Broadway, jazz, pop, and modern rock, this is a remarkable journey through some sixty years of popular songwriting: from Leiber & Stoller's genius rock 'n' roll collaborations and Richard Sherman's Disney songs to Kenny Gamble's Philly Sound; Norman Whitfield's Motown classics; Loretta Lynn's country standards; expansive folk music from Peter, Paul, and Mary; folk-rock from Stephen Stills; confessional gems from James Taylor; poetic excursions from Patti Smith; Beatles magic from Ringo Starr; expansive brilliance from Paul Simon; complex melodic greatness from Brian Wilson; the most untrustworthy narrator alive in Randy Newman; the dark rock theater of both Alice Cooper and Rob Zombie; the sophisticated breadth of Elvis Costello; the legendary jazz of Herbie Hancock; the soulful swagger of Chrissie Hynde; the funny-poignant beauty of John Prine; the ancient wisdom fused with hip-hop and reggae of Matisyahu; and much more. In all of it is the collective wisdom of those who have written songs for decades, songs that have impacted our culture forever.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"You'll be richly repaid wherever you dip into this wide-ranging, informative, entertaining, and instructive collection of interviews."?No Depression, 11/10/16"A must for songwriters everywhere."?Booklist (starred review), 11/15/16

Paul Zollo is a singer-songwriter, photographer, and the author of seven books, including Conversations with Tom Petty and Hollywood Remembered. The editor of BlueRailroad.com and senior editor of American Songwriter, he's written for many magazines, including Musician, Variety, and Billboard. His most recent album is Universal Cure.

Paul aimed high and knocked it OUT OF THE PARK. AGAIN! Just like Paul's previous tome, "Songwriters on Songwriting," Paul interviewed dozens of the best known and most highly respected songwriters from all genres; Brian Wilson, Paul Simon, John Prine, Rickie Lee Jones, Elvis Costello, James Taylor... The list goes on and on.... 700 pages of person-to-person talks, one songwriter to another. This is no fluff piece. It's the art and the craft of their personal songwriting process. And so much more; a peek behind the curtain at the real person behind the hoopla and fame. Paul is a highly respected songwriter in his own right, the Senior Editor of American Songwriter magazine, and the host of the Songwriting School of Los Angeles' interview show, "Songwriters on Songwriting, LIVE!", which is streamed and open to the public in real time. I've paced the floor for 2 years, and it was worth the wait. As an active musician and songwriter myself, I can't recommend it any higher. Pick up the previous work also, "Songwriters on Songwriting. "

Ever heard of Paul Simon? Kris Kristofferson? Brian Wilson? Randy Newman? James Taylor? Of course. ever wonder what it might be like to sit with them and some 40 other writers of our time? This is the substance of what Zollo has tackled. I knew that I would love this book as I am fully impressed by the first version. Zollo puts you in the room with him as he tries to ferret out the mystery of song writing. As one skilled in the craft, he has an inside edge when seeking the heart of the mystery. As I read this edition (still in the process), I could feel the awkwardness of Brian Wilson as though I were present. I'm a huge James Taylor fan and read James' autobiography years ago. There are portions of Zollo's interview with James that took me to a place unreached in James' own bio. The exchanges are cordial and very respectful of each artist. Zollo has done his homework and approaches each interview ready. He knows the material and is able to surgically cull the essence of each verse by each artist. I've learned a lot in reading this book (as a continuation of the first volume) and have been exposed to some folks I didn't know. I enjoy grabbing it and choosing a particular songwriter and having a little visit. Then, I can return at a later time to explore the next artist. There's not anything that I can think to suggest to improve on this project. It's highly readable, it's incisive and opens doors as Zollo tries to get answers to settle his curiosity. I was struck this

morning as I was reading Richard Thompson's interview from 2009 where Zollo inquires: "And then is it pretty clear to you what chords will go with that melody, or do you try different things?" Thompson responds: "I think it's usually clear. Sometimes it changes, but it doesn't usually change very much. That's interesting" "I think it's something I've never really considered before. Usually the first way you hear it is the harmony you end up using." As I read this I thought it interesting indeed that Zollo had touched on something that Thompson had not considered before. This is only one example of many where Zollo opens it up. I think it helps if the reader is a musician and/or writer themselves as many of the references are spoken musician to musician. If one is only the least bit interested in the process of song writing, this book is a must. I've recommended it to all my friends and the feedback I've gotten is unanimous. Very well done. I look forward to whatever is next on Zollo's list as I have become a big fan. Treat yourself or someone you know would love it. It's the Holidays - go big!

I've owned the first volume of *Songwriters on Songwriting* for many years, (as well as other Paul Zollo books) and have given it to friends who all love it. I've also updated my own copy when more interviews were added to the original. So all of the fans of this book were very excited about the prospect of another volume of all-new interviews and *More Songwriters on Songwriting* was worth the wait! For decades, Paul Zollo has interviewed most of the great songwriters, so there are many household names like Paul Simon, Randy Newman and Elvis Costello. But the interviews I looked forward to the most were with the lesser-known...some of my favorite songwriters like Joe Jackson and Difford and Tilbrook. Because Paul Zollo is a songwriter himself, he has an innate understanding and ability to communicate on the same level with these artists and go very deeply into their creative process. You can tell that he must do an immense amount of preparation to familiarize himself with each writer's work. As you read the interviews, you understand what a personal endeavor it is to write a song; that there is no one method and everyone's approach may be different. Although I'm not a songwriter, I am in a creative profession and found many similarities between my work processes and theirs, and therefore it was very inspiring! *More Songwriters on Songwriting* is eye-opening, fun and gives you a deeper appreciation of the songs we all love. Everyone will enjoy reading the thoughts of their favorite writers and may also discover some new ones to love!

This book holds up well on its own, however it falls short of the mark compared to the original "Songwriters on Songwriting". The information contained is okay but relies heavily on a formulaic list

of (sometimes absurd) questions. Paul Zollo has interviewed a rather impressive list of songwriters in both books. It is fun reading about ALL the artists whether you know of them or not. It seems that Paul loves all of these people and some of them he truly adores. He tends to gush and slobber out his affection on all of them. I suppose this is probably necessary if he is going to get any depth to his interviews. If you like this book you owe it to yourself to read the original "Songwriters" book also.

Could not LOVE both Vol 1&2 more than I do. A must have for musophiles as well as creatives of every kind.

A good read.

A must have for anyone serious about the craft. Gives a lot of insight from people who know their way around writing a good song. Also makes you feel less crazy when you realize many songwriters have the same idiosyncrasies about composing as you do.

Further adventures in the world of songwriting. Candid in-depth interviews - a wonderful book.

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