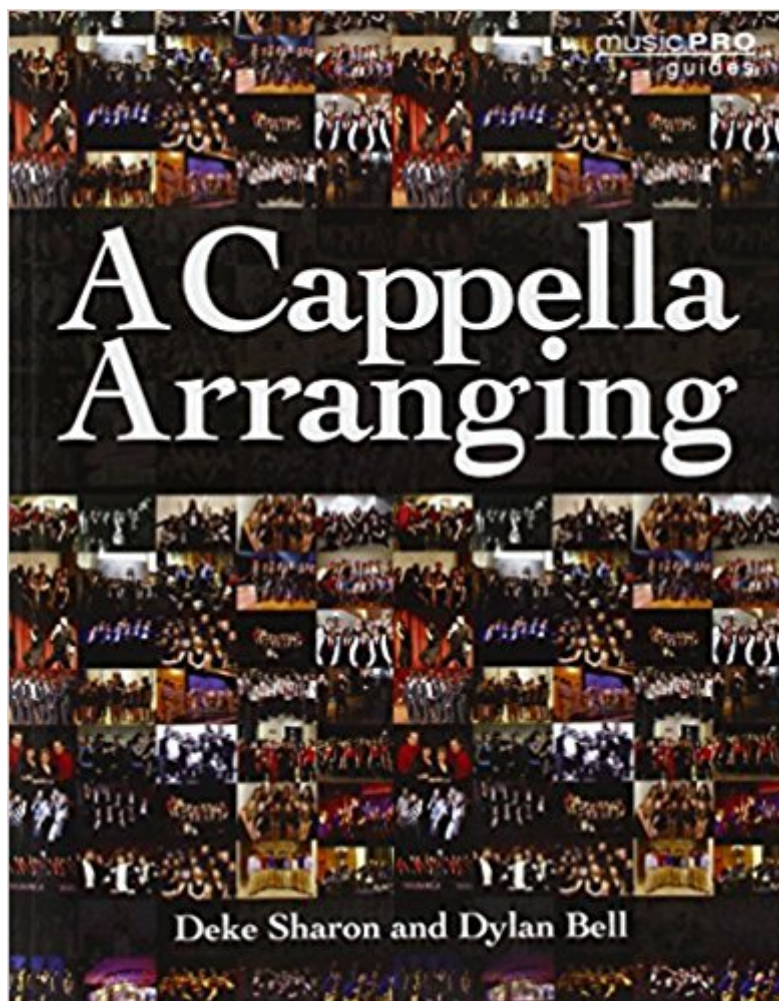


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# A Cappella Arranging (Music Pro Guides)



## Synopsis

(Music Pro Guide Books & DVDs). The world loves to sing. From barbershop groups to madrigal choirs to vocal rock bands, there are tens of thousands of vocal groups in America. The success of mainstream television programs such as Glee and The Sing-Off not only demonstrates the rising popularity of vocal music; it reflects how current trends inspire others to join in. In addition, through various online and on-the-ground vocal music societies, the "a cappella market" is well defined and well connected. Like singing itself, a cappella is a global phenomenon. At the heart of every vocal group is the music it performs. This often means writing its own arrangements of popular or traditional songs. This book is the long-awaited definitive work on the subject, wide ranging both in its scope and in its target audience which spans beginners, music students, and community groups to professional and semi-professional performers, vocal/instrumental songwriters, composers, and producers providing genre-specific insight on a cappella writing. The tone of the book is instructive and informative, yet conversational: it is intended to stand alongside any academic publication while remaining interesting and fun. A Cappella Arranging is a good textbook and a "good read" for every vocal arranger, whether amateur or professional; every vocal music classroom, and any professional recording studio.

## Book Information

Series: Music Pro Guides

Paperback: 360 pages

Publisher: Hal Leonard Books; Pap/Com edition (November 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1458416577

ISBN-13: 978-1458416575

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.8 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #107,030 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Songwriting](#) #59 in [Books >](#)

[Arts & Photography > Music > Recording & Sound](#) #160 in [Books > Arts & Photography >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Deke Sharon is known colloquially as "the father of contemporary a cappella." Arguably one of the

best-known and most prolific a cappella arrangers in the world, with over 2,000 arrangements to his credit, Sharon founded the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America. He is also the arranger and producer of NBC's The Sing-Off, was the music director on Pitch Perfect, and has arranged music for The Social Network. Dylan Bell is a world-renowned vocal arranger, performer, producer, and instructor. His award-winning arrangements have been sung around the world by vocal groups from Ann Arbor to Zurich. Bell has written for some of the finest a cappella groups in the world, including the Nylons and the Swingle Singers. He also regularly contributes articles to the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America.

What can be said. This book is the book I had been looking for throughout my entire time in college a cappella! I highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in arranging for a cappella groups or even for people who are just participating in an a cappella group--the knowledge provided in this book is useful for either. Deke Sharon and Dylan Bell did a great job explaining the (sometimes) overwhelming process of arranging and giving their own personal insights into the creative process. Whether you are a beginning arranger or a seasoned composer looking to learn more about a new genre, this book is extremely helpful! The book starts with the 10 basic steps of arranging. This alone blew my mind a few times. Oftentimes, my peers and I would have an idea of a great song that we would want to arrange, but more often than not, we had no idea of where to begin. This led to many frustrated potential arrangers and some pretty basic transcriptions of songs. The 10 basic steps provide another way of approaching arranging and working through the process, which is truly invaluable to the beginner arranger. They go on to explain the very basics of what arranging is and the different types of arrangements. They provide exercises to give the beginner arranger a way to start developing the skills needed such as simple voice leading, developing an inner ear, and outlining the basic ranges of the different voice types. Now these are not exhaustive lists and examples that one might find in a collegiate music textbook, but they are enough for someone who is just starting out. They are also a well-said, succinct overview for those who may have more musical training under their belt. Deke and Dylan then go on to expand upon the 10 Basic Steps by going into further detail for each step. All of which is broken up into easy-to-understand sections. In each chapter, they give exercises to help develop and implement these steps into the reader's own work. They also provide their own personal processes by explaining their use of the 10 steps in their own arrangements. These arrangements are given in their entirety in the appendices of the book. This is truly an invaluable resource to have--being able to get into the mind of the composer/arranger is insanely helpful in understanding the process outlined in these chapters. I

found myself flipping back and forth between the appendices and the chapters frequently!The book goes on to discuss various "Advanced Topics" such as arranging for other voice formats (TTBB, SSAA, etc.), Vocal Percussion, writing medleys, and even a "How-To" History of A Cappella, which goes through various styles and is, again, insanely helpful. These chapters can totally be used as a reference for the experienced composer or arranger who wants to get their hands dirty in A Cappella arranging. Though I am no longer in my collegiate a cappella group anymore, this book has informed my current work and I highly recommend it for anyone interested in the subject. I will definitely be buying this for the music directors of my former group as an Enchiridion of sorts to be passed down from music director to music director. Thank you Deke and Dylan for this wonderful resource!

Bought this for my daughter who is in a college a cappella group and she loves it!

great book

It's a very good book, but such a title calls out for either an enclosed disk of audio and scores, or downloadable content. As it stands, the book's website includes a page of YouTube links - and we all know how transient such content can be. My advice is grab yourself a third party tool and download or capture the audio of those performances while they're still available.

I used this book in my Contemporary Voice class for my Senior Year in College. I absolutely love it. It's specific, easy to read and understand. It's a BEAST!! In the best sense. I received it on time by the seller. I recommend this book to all vocalists, especially those who love not only to sing but compose as well! :)

The book covers everything pertinent to a cappella arranging. I have been arranging for years and was delighted to find new tips and ideas, and I appreciate the caring attitude the book takes towards musicians, especially singers. I highly recommend it.

My signing son really like this a lot. More than several others.

Simply the most comprehensive and authoritative book on the subject.

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