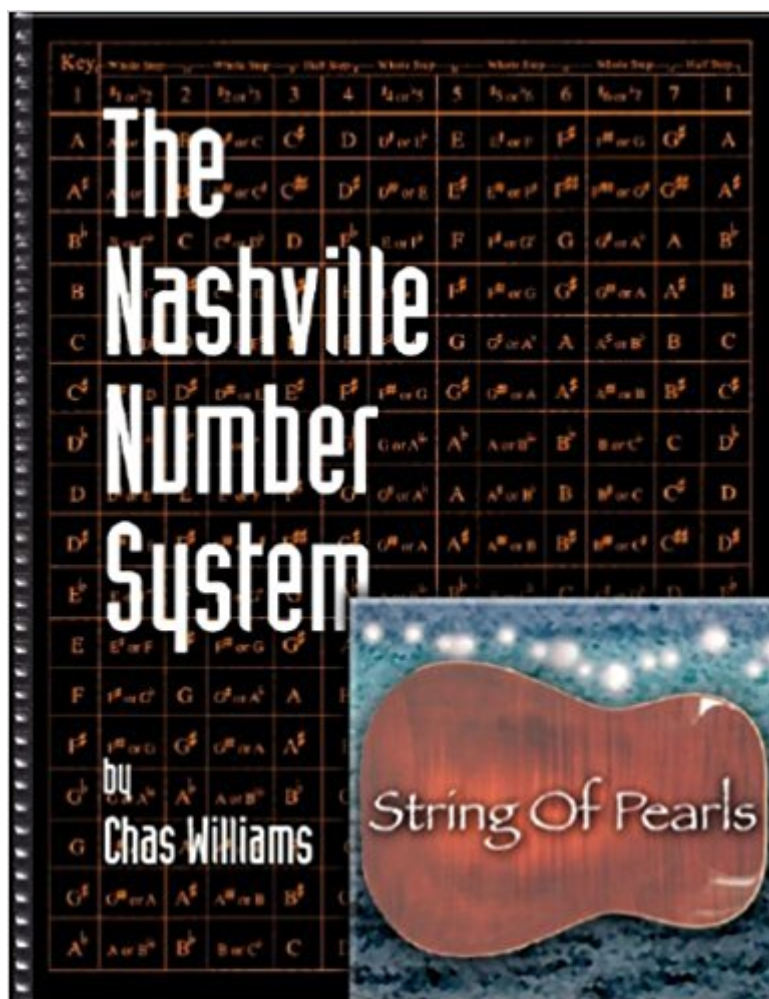# The Nashville Number System

Synopsis

THE NASHVILLE NUMBER SYSTEM In the late 50's, Neil Matthews devised a musical number system for the Jordanaires to use in the studio. Charlie McCoy and fellow studio musicians began adapting Matthews' number system into chord charts. The Nashville Number System has evolved into a complete method of writing chord charts and melodies---combining Nashville shorthand with formal notation standards. Â The Nashville Number System is 130 pages with a step by step method of how to write a Nashville number chart for any song. Included with each NNS book in Edition 7 is the cd, "String Of Pearls". This is a 10 song cd of Â instrumentals, including, Amazing Grace. I walk you through the details of each song and explain the Number System tools used to write the charts. Now, while listening to the cd, you can see and hear how Nashville number charts work. THE NASHVILLE NUMBER SYSTEM includes a collection of handwritten number charts for the songs on the cd, String Of Pearls. Each song is charted by hand from the cd by: Â â ¢ Charlie McCoy (Hee-Haw) Â â ¢ David Briggs (Session Keyboardist/Arranger) â ¢ Eddie Bayers (Session drummer) Â â ¢ Jimmy Capps (Studio guitarist, Grand Ole Opry Staff Band) â ¢ Brent Rowan (Studio guitarist/Producer) â ¢ Lura Foster (Charts for TV shows: Nashville Now, Music City Tonight, Primetime Country) â ¢ John Hobbs (Session Keyboardist) â ¢ Mike Chapman (Session Bassist) â ¢ Biff Watson (Session Guitarist) â ¢ Chris Farren (Producer/Guitarist) â ¢ Tony Harrell (Session Keyboardist/Studio Owner) Each of these musicians wrote 5 number charts in his or her style from the String Of Pearls cd. For example, the song, String Of Pearls, has charts written by: Charlie McCoy, Brent Rowan, John Hobbs, Jimmy Capps and Biff Watson. The song, Waylon, has charts written by Tony Harrell, Lura Foster, Chris Farren, Biff Watson and Eddie Bayers. The idea is that youâ ™ll be able to compare, side by side, some of the different styles of notation and symbols you can use to chart the same piece of music. So, as you listen to a song on the cd, you can flip between different charts written of the same song. These different charts represent the kinds of numbering techniques that you are liable to run into in almost all of the major recording and television studios, clubs, showcases, rehearsal halls, and other situations where music is performed in Nashville.

Book Information

Spiral-bound: 130 pages
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Customer Reviews

I bought this book because I wanted to find out what the Nashville number system was all about and how it differed from the numbers that jazz musicians commonly refer to--usually in Roman numerals. Not much difference, really. I once saw a jazz pianist coach his bassist through a live performance of an old jazz standard that the young bassist didn't know by simply flashing fingers at each chord change--and there were more than just three chords in that tune. When a jazz musician says "IV chord," he's saying exactly what a Nashville player says when he says "4 chord." It's just that they got there by different routes.I found this book fascinating, particularly as to the lengths to which Nashville-using musicians have each gone to flesh out the Nashville number system. It's a bit funny, though, because it ends up being almost as complicated as learning standard music notation, if you go the whole way. They just use different symbols for the same things--like a diamond for whole note, for example. I'm not at all sure that it really wouldn't be just as easy to become good at reading standard music notation as reading Nashville. But this book is a fascinating and fun read, particularly the various and varied actual handwritten pages of Nashville notation made by experienced musicians.

After reading the book I was a little hesitant about using the number system. The next time I went to the studio to record a new demo of my song I sat with some of Nashville's "A" list players and watched as they quickly and easily charted my song and from reading the book, I was understanding what they were doing. Even they tweeked their first chart of the songNext time I'll try it myself and let them tweek it if necessary!Don't be afraid but do get this book and CD to help you understand The Nashville Number System!

I am taking guitar lessons and this book is a must have for anyone learning the guitar. It will save

you so much aggravation memorizing chords in all of the different keys and will quickly improve your lead guitar playing as well.

This is a resource you should have in your library, but it's not comprehensive. I definitely found it helpful recently when I was faced with having to create charts for a session I had scheduled in Nashville, but it lacks a thorough list of the symbols used in that system. I figured out what I needed by browsing through the examples, but that took a lot of time I could have used on something else. Other than that, I think this is the best resource on the market for learning the Nashville system.

Very informative and helpful. However I do have some musical background so it was a lot easier for me if you don't have any idea are any background in reading music it may be a slow go but still very informative

This is a good starting point for understanding and applying the Nashville number system to ones playing. However, the book could have been better organized, more detailed in its instruction and less heavy on the handwritten examples which are, in some cases, hard to read. The musical examples were good. I get why all examples are original, but more familiar songs would be helpful too.

This book shows you different styles of charting with the number system, letting you choose your way. Almost everything is covered. Songs are more evolved than in "Song charting made easy". This book is the one I will use to inspire me for my personal charting. It will save me hours. It gives me a clear way to chart almost everything I need to play in a rhythm section.

The Nashville Mumber System helps memorize music. It is a well written very informative and concise book. I had heard of the system and now I am applying the system to speed up my memorization of songs and help in the analyst of the structure of tunes.

The Nashville Number System Nashville Eats: Hot Chicken, Buttermilk Biscuits, and 100 More Southern Recipes from Music City Making the Scene: Nashville - How to Live, Network, and Succeed in Music City I'll Never Let You Go (Morgans of Nashville) Be Afraid (Morgans of Nashville) Heart Breaker: A Nashville Nights Novel Color-by-Number: Butterflies: 30+ fun & relaxing color-by-number projects to engage & entertain Color-by-Number: Animals: 30+ fun & relaxing

color-by-number projects to engage & entertain Contemporary's Number Power 6: Real World Approach to Math : Word Problems (The number power series) Number, Shape, & Symmetry: An Introduction to Number Theory, Geometry, and Group Theory A Friendly Introduction to Number Theory (4th Edition) (Featured Titles for Number Theory) The Sixteenth Round: From Number 1 Contender to Number 45472 Pick 3 Lottery-2: Volume 2: The Straight Number System in New York Common Core Clinics Mathematics (The Number System) Grade 6 by Russell Kahn (2012) Paperback System Analysis & Design with Case Studies: start system presentation System Performance Tuning, 2nd Edition (O'Reilly System Administration) ARM System Developer's Guide: Designing and Optimizing System Software (The Morgan Kaufmann Series in Computer Architecture and Design) Linux: Linux Guide for Beginners: Command Line, System and Operation (Linux Guide, Linux System, Beginners Operation Guide, Learn Linux Step-by-Step) How to Build a Computer: Learn How to Build Your Own Computer From Scratch. The Parts, Connecting Everything Together, Installation and more (PC, Windows, Gaming System, Media System, Linux) Linux: Linux Mastery. The Ultimate Linux Operating System and Command Line Mastery (Operating System, Linux)