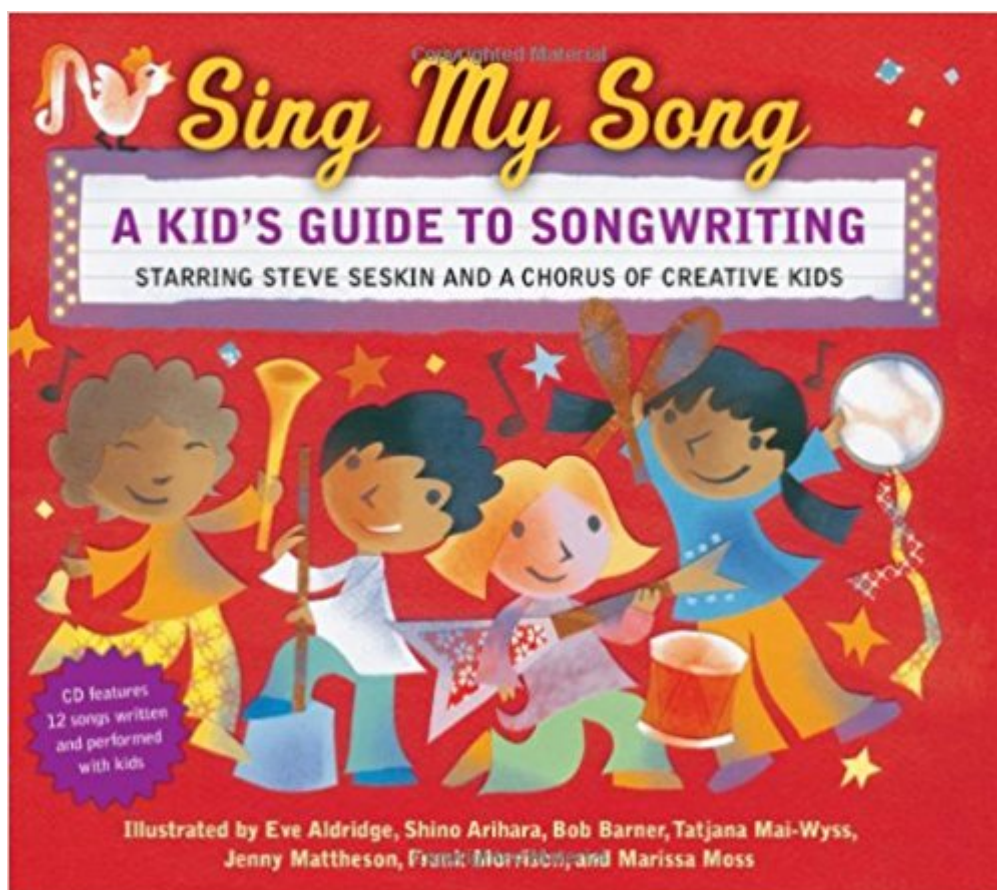


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# Sing My Song: A Kid's Guide To Songwriting



## Synopsis

Award-winning songwriter Steve Seskin has long helped budding balladeers discover the songs within them. Now, in a book based on his elementary school songwriting workshops, he shares the creative process that led him to seven number-one hits, including DON'T LAUGH AT ME. Through author's notes and songs written with students, Seskin shows readers how to come up with a title, create lyrics and rhymes, and use emotion and imagery. Each song appears with an original illustration by a top artist. The accompanying CD, which features this spirited collection of songs performed by Steve and a chorus of kids--plus four instrumental tracks to pair with new lyrics--will inspire readers to put their own feelings, whether silly or sincere, to paper and write a song of their own. Reviews "Schools that teach songwriting or children and adults who want to get started in singing their own songs will be inspired by this cheerful celebration."-Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1 "Seskin has tapped a mother lode of musical enthusiasm in this book by showing young readers the "how to" necessary to create songs and set them to music. Following 12 excellent examples and step-by-step instructions, readers discover how to put together the parts of a song. Musical terms are defined, song forms are suggested, and a CD of tunes provides sample accompaniment as Seskin backs up his relaxed vocals on guitar and with choruses from various

schools. Among the highlights, the echo response in "Good Morning" shouts with energy, while laughter comes across in the words and voices of "My Pets." The author guides students past more difficult intervals and bridges of songs but avoids drowning out the younger voices of his fellow musicians. Environmentally conscious listeners might appreciate the chorus of "Four Rs"â "an infectious "green" message, or "Read About It," a selection to touch the heart of any librarian. The breakdown of song parts and explanations for beginners, illustrated by seven notable artists in a range of styles and mediums, make this lesson in creativity an easy pick for all libraries.â "Mary Elam, Forman Elementary School, Plano, TX Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Songwriter and frequent school-assembly performer Seskin explains the process of collaborative songwriting for those who might like to try it. Step-by-step instructions, along with an audio CD of his favorite songs sung by the children who helped create them, help make his process clear. Seven different illustrators provide pictures to accompany the songs, giving the volume an appropriately collaborative, haphazard, albeit joyful feel. The CD, filled with the off-key exuberance of young children singing and yelling, adds much to understanding how the whole process works. The final tracks are instrumental, allowing budding songwriters to fill in the music with songs of their own. While the author's enthusiasm is inspiring, this is more a book for adults who work with children than for children themselves. The lyrics are valuable, but there is no sheet music or musical notation to show how words become music that might be sung by anyone but the writer. Schools that teach songwriting or children and adults who want to get started in singing their own songs will be inspired by this cheerful celebration. (Nonfiction. 8-12, adult) --Kirkus Reviews, September 15, 2008

SESKIN, Steve. *Sing My Song: A Kid's Guide to Songwriting*. w/CD. illus. by Eve Aldridge, et al. 32p. CIP. Tricycle. Oct. 2008. Tr \$18.99. ISBN 978-1-58246-266-0. LC 2007046966. Gr 1-5-Seskin has tapped a mother lode of musical enthusiasm in this book by showing young readers the "how to" necessary to create songs and set them to music. Following 12 excellent examples and step-by-step instructions, readers discover how to put together the parts of a song. Musical terms are defined, song forms are suggested, and a CD of tunes provides sample accompaniment as Seskin backs up his relaxed vocals on guitar and with choruses from various schools. Among the highlights, the echo response in "Good Morn-ing" shouts with energy, while laughter comes across in the words and voices of "My Pets." The author guides students past more diffi-cult intervals and bridges of songs but avoids drowning out the younger voices of his fellow musicians. Environmentally conscious listeners might appreciate the chorus of "Four Rs"-an infectious "green"

message, or "Read About It," a selection to touch the heart of any librarian. The breakdown of song parts and explanations for beginners, illustrated by seven notable artists in a range of styles and mediums, make this lesson in creativity an easy pick for all libraries.-Mary Elam, Forman Elementary School, Plano, TX --School Library Journal, October, 2008

The main content of this book is songs (CD included) written by the author and groups of kids he has worked with. The songs are great, and there is a short description of how they came up with each song at the top of each page. But, as I was looking for a bit more substance that fit the title description, I was disappointed that there are just a couple pages at the back of the book that talk about the different steps to writing songs, though this content is good too, but short. I think it is good for what it is, but felt a little misguided by the title, as I was expecting more of the substance of the book to expound on the steps of song-writing in a way that would "guide" and allow kids to participate/practice their own process of song-writing along the way.

Bought as a Christmas gift for my 10 yr old granddaughter I think it will be a great book for her to learn with

This book contains songs that my son has played and sung from an early age! It has helped him to start the day off on the right foot with a smile on his face.

I like the condition of this book. I learned a little by buying a children's book and got little out of it. However the music on the CD was cut.

This book has numerous illustrators: Eve Aldridge, Shino Arihara, Bob Barner, Tatjana, Mai-Wyss, Jenny Mattheson, Frank Morrison and Marissa Moss. Steve Seskin is a songwriter with seven number-one hits to his credit. He always wanted to help youngsters write the songs of their hearts and with *Sing My Song*, he works with them in the creative process that will produce completed songs. Seskin is the author of *Don't Laugh At Me* and *A Chance to Shine*. Tim McGraw recorded Seskin's song, "Grown Men Don't Cry." Seskin's book, *Sing My Song* is a children's how-to for writing a song. He helps children create the verses, chorus and the bridge, work with sounds, rhyme and various words that create the picture of the story. The accompanying CD has songs from the book and some musical tracks to give kids the 'hands on' help in writing lyrics. Kids will like the hands on, interactive quality *Sing My Song*. It's perfect for those stay-at-home days. The illustrations

are beautiful and inviting. They portray kids of all races which is particularly attractive to me as many of my grandchildren are kids of color. Armchair Interviews says: A good book for the home or school.

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