

Steve & Vikki Cook

MELODIES THAT SING

I. First, A Word on Prosody

A. Two Kinds of Prosody

1. *Singing the words like you say them*
2. *Emotion of the music matching the emotion and message of the lyrics*

B. *Great melodies incorporate both kinds of prosody (thereby enhancing both the emotion and the message of the lyric)*

II. Melodic Events that Highlight Words

A. Pitch Change

the bigger it is, the more attention it gets

B. Pitch in Relation to Chord

sustained out of chord notes add tension

C. Pitch in Relation to Key

out of key notes against in key chords adds tension

D. Rhythmic Change in Melody

rhythmically dense phrases, as opposed to long note phrases, or vice versa

E. Length of Note

the longer the note the more attention it gets

F. On the downbeat of a measure

gets the most attentive

G. On the beat

gets the next most attention

H. Location within Melodic Phrase

beginning tends to get the most attention

I. Location within Song Form

Power Positions

a) ABAB

b) AABA

III. *Creating a Melody from Existing Lyrics*

“Find the melody in your lyric that expresses the emotion you want listeners to feel.”

~Frederick