Nashville Songwriting, Number System & Publishing Handbook

Crafting Commercial Hooks, Nashville Number System Charting, and Co-Writing Room Etiquette

NASHVILLE SONGWRITING & PUBLISHING GUIDE

The Nashville Number System (NNS)

The Nashville Number System uses Arabic numerals (1 through 7) to represent chord scale degrees.

Key transpositions are instantaneous: 1 - 4 - 5 in C is C - F - G; in G it is G - C - D.

Split measures are underscored or marked with slashes; diamond notation indicates whole-measure sustained chords.

Co-Writing Room Etiquette

? Arrive on time with at least three compelling lyrical or melodic hooks.

? Standard Music Row agreement: equal three-way publishing split unless contractually agreed beforehand.

? Create an immediate acoustic phone recording and log written lyrics before departing the room.