

Songwriting Camp 2019

Main Topics:

- **Lyrics** – the words in a song
- **Structure** – song form + rhyme scheme
- **Melody** – “A sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying.” *Linear*
- **Harmony** – “The combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes to produce chords and chord progressions having a pleasing effect.” *Horizontal*

Songwriting Steps:

1. Brainstorm Topic (L)
2. Choose Topic (L)
3. Write Words or Phrases about the Topic (L)
4. Choose Structure (Form, Rhyme Scheme) (S)
5. Write Title (L)
6. Write Chorus Using Structure (L)
7. Write Verse/Bridge (M)
8. Add Chords (H)
9. Revise as Needed (All)

My Notes:

Lyric Writing

How to Write Lyrics 101

- Forget about your own “style” or “cliché”
- Lyrics are simply the words that accompany the melody. They are the story-telling aspect of the song.
- Choose a Topic (What you want to write about)
- Choose a song Title (Try 1-4 words)
- Write Chorus
 - Simple and easy to remember
 - You can repeat the song’s title multiple times
 - Expand on what title means
- Move on to Verses and Bridge.
 - Build the story.
 - Outline the story ahead of time with topics you want to discuss
 - Try V1 about you, V2 about another, and V3/bridge about both
 - Try V1 about past, V2 about present, and V3/bridge about future
- Suggested Verse Length – 4-6 long lines or 6-10 short lines
- Suggested Chorus Length – 3-6 long lines or 5-8 short lines
- Suggested Bridge Length – 2 long or 4 short, possibly repeating a few times
- Rhyme Schemes – pattern of rhymes at the ends of each line (ex AABB, ABAB)
- Inspiration – write all the time

My Notes:

Song Structure (Form + Rhyme Scheme)

Song Form

- Song form is a map of your song
- The map is made up of different sections
 - Verses, Choruses, Bridge
 - Ex. V, C, V, C, B, C

My Notes:

Rhyme Scheme

- Pattern of rhymes at the end of lines
- Examples AABB, ABAB
- Example: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star – AABBA
- Example: Amazing Grace – ABAB
- Why are Rhymes Important?
 - How listeners feel is important – they need to have a positive experience
 - Listeners crave rhymes – they create a sense of stability and familiarity
- If you choose not to rhyme, do it for a reason to create a specific emotion in your song.

My Notes:

Songwriting Tips

15 Songwriting Tips

- Immerse yourself in songs you want your songs to sound like
- Spend a large amount of time learning songs you want to sound like
- Brainstorm ideas for songs
- Decide on song form before starting the lyric writing process
- Record/Write – get the ideas down
- Try using a new instrument
- Put yourself on the spot (video yourself for a few minutes, as if you are live)
- Try coming up with the title before anything else. Make a memorable title.
- Collaborate! Take turns writing a line or section back and forth
- Embrace criticism
- Try completing song before stopping
- Never compare yourself to others unless you are doing it inspiring (not discouraging)
- Catchy song test – have people sing along. If friends and family can do so by last chorus, it's probably catchy.
- Carry a journal around with you. You're not going to remember!
- Don't be afraid to write songs that you don't necessarily connect with.

My Notes:

Songwriting Tips (Continued)

How to Write Better Melodies

- You need notes and rhythms
- They need to be memorable
- Consider your listener
- Take a musical idea, then repeat rhythm (La Cucaracha)

My Notes:

25 Lyric Ideas Vid

- Favorite Person on Earth (Mom, Dad, friend, etc.)
- Go people watching –
- Fill in the blank. “I could never live without my...”
- Most recent life lesson
- Write to your 5 year old self
- Best present you’ve ever been given
- Random number, then random word – combine for song topic
- First pet
- You’ve just discovered an underwater world... describe
- Make up a word and write a song about the significance and meaning
- Song from a different perspective, like an inanimate object
- Teach something educational to kids
- Last time you laughed so hard you cried
- Fill in the blank... I will always be...
- Song that would fit in a movie you love
- Thoughts about something you’re particularly passionate about
- Song with no rhymes
- Lullabye
- Perfect road trip
- First memory of something
- Something you’d like exercising to
- You just found a long-lost sibling
- Write about good friend
- Greatest miracle you’ve ever witnessed
- Imagine you’ve been requested to write a song for a famous artist