

Song Writing Basic Workshop

Welcome Thank Library

Bio School/Church Choir, HS/College Band Choir USAF Band, Post Retirement Music Library and other shows

3 Elements to Get Started

- Story
- Melody
- Style

The Lyrics Will Tell You Everything

- Style
- Form
- Mood

Edit Lyrics

- Start with More(More Verses and Words than you Need)
- Move Words from Verse to Verse for Better Storytelling
- Find a Cadence and Edit for Smoothness (Drop Extra Words etc.)

Lines that Don't Fit May make a Good Bridge(Phrase Too Long or Different Idea)

Find your Melody

- Start with a Simple Fragment
- Find the Right Key for the Singer
- Use Cadence of the Lyrics to Guide You

Find a Style

- Right for Lyrics
- One that Has an Audience
- Change Style: Try Pop Song as Country, etc.

Tools

Keep a Notebook(write down everything!)

- Fragments of Lyrics
- “In the Style Of....”
- “Melody sorta Like.....”
- Don't worry about being “Original”. Everyone thinks they can write songs.

Reference

- Rhyming Dictionary
- Thesaurus

Write a Lot

- 1 Good Idea for 100 Bad Ones
- Use a Piece of Truth to tell a Story(It's a Place to Start!)
- Keep Good Computer Records(Easy to Find, Clearly Labeled)
- Easier to edit Lyrics on Computer(Move from Verse to Verse, Etc.)

Musical Skills

- Learn Some Guitar/Piano
- Basic Music Theory (Cords and How they Work Together)
- Learn Your Voice (How High Can I Sing, What Part of my Range Sounds Best)

Protect Your Work

- Record a Rough Copy Early(Shows “First Use”)
- Put YOUR NAME ONLY On All Work
- Web Site or Fan Page(After Your Work is Ready for the Public)
- Get an Entertainment Lawyer(At Some Point... You'll Know When!)

Songwriters to Study

(Simple Songs, Great Lyrics, Country and Blues)

- Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson
- Muddy Waters, Chuck Berry, Willie Dixon
- Women: Memphis Minnie, Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn(Women point of View is Different, All Fiercely Independent)

Look Out!

- No Guarantee of Success
- You are Your Competition(Like Golf)
- Your Passion Turns into Your Hustle