
Songwriting Pro Course Syllabus

Duration : 4 months (16 weeks)
3 classes / week

This course will provide budding songwriters with the tactics and exercises to write great songs. You will learn how to generate thought-provoking ways to express the emotions you wish to convey. Finally, you will learn how to evolve your song into a balanced musical arrangement.

This Course is split into 4 Modules :

The Music
The Lyrics
The Arrangement
In Studio Songwriting Sessions

1. The Music

(Week 1-6)

Learn how to create the melodic ideas that convey the emotion of your lyrics & how to build these melodic ideas into complete sections and songs to suit your songwriting style.

- **Understanding Chords** (*Week 1*)

- Triads
- Feeling of a Chord
- Common Chord Progression
- Diatonic Chords in Major & Minor Keys
- Non Diatonic Chords in Major & Minor Keys
- Modal Interchanges
- Progressions in Minor key

(Practical Exercises & Readings)

- **Understanding Harmonic Rhythm** (*Week 2*)

- Sevenths in Major & Minor Keys
- Ninths in Major & Minor Keys
- Common Chord Progressions using Sevenths & Ninths
- Harmonic Rhythm
- Creating Sections/Contrast with Chords & Rhythm
- Play of Lyrics with Chords

(Practical Exercises & Readings)

- **Understanding Melody** (*Week 3 & 4*)

- Purpose of Melody
- Melody with Chords
- Types of Melodies
- Creating Melodic Hooks
- Melodic Stability
- Melody through different song sections
- Developing a Melody

(Practical Exercises & Readings)

- **Melodic Rhythm & Contrast** (*Week 5 & 6*)

- Creating Contrast/Sections with Melody
- Lyrics with Melody
- Storytelling with Melody
- Melodies in Major & Minor Key
- Borrowing Notes from other Keys
- Blues/Jazz Specifics
- Harmony to Highlight Melody

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

2. The Lyrics

(Week 7-12)

Learn how to build lyrics, develop the rhythms of your song sections & to get the most out of your lyrics by learning how to combine them accurately & effectively with melody.

- **Story of the Song** (*Week 7 & 8*)

Part 1 - Story

- Idea of the Song
- Point of View
- Asking Questions
- Storytelling
- Types of Narratives

Part 2 - Development

- Development of the Journey of the Song
- Creating Sections
- Lyrical Expansion
- Verse by Verse Transition

Part 3 - Specific Writing

- Six Questions for Lyric writing
- Commonly used lyric ideas
- Tailoring Ideas for Song

Part 4 - Song Sections

- Verse
- Chorus
- Bridge
- Pre Chorus

(Practical Exercises & Readings)

• Prosody (Week 9)

- Prosody : Patterns of Rhythm & Sound
- Stable & Unstable Lyric
- Number of Lines
- Length of Lines
- Effects of Line Length

(Practical Exercises & Readings)

• Rhyme Schemes (Week 10)

- Stable Rhymes
- Unstable Rhymes
- Importance of Vowels
- Syllables & Consonants

(Practical Exercises & Readings)

• Types of Rhymes (Week 10)

- Perfect Rhymes
- Phonetically Related Rhymes
- Voiced & Unvoiced Sounds
- Plosive, Fricative & Nasal Sounds
- Additive & Subtractive Rhymes
- Unresolved Rhymes

(Practical Exercises & Readings)

- **Developing Ideas with Rhymes** (*Week 11*)

- Creating a Worksheet
- Using Rhyme Dictionary to find ideas
- Organising Ideas by Rhyme Schemes

(Practical Exercises & Readings)

- **Lyric Rhythm** (*Week 12*)

- Legato & Staccato
- Syllables & Shape of Languages
- Syllables with Melody
- Stressed & Unstressed Syllables
- Lyric & Melodic Rhythm

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

3. The Arrangement

(Week 13-14)

Learn tools and techniques that will help you craft songs with the right instrumentation and production to enhance the intention of your song.

- **Arranging for Recording** (*Week 13*)
- **Arranging for Live Performances**
- **Horizontal Arrangement**
- **Vertical Arrangement**
- **Instrument Specific Arrangement** (*Week 14*)

- Drums & Bass
- Guitars & Keys
- Orchestral Sections
- Vocal Arrangement

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

4. In Studio Songwriting Sessions

(Week 15-16)

Two weeks of songwriting sessions where you will get to professionally write & arrange songs in the studio.

(Only in In-Studio Course. Replaced with assignments and songwriting sessions online for online course)

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