
Songwriting Beginner Course Syllabus

Duration : 2 months (8 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 3 Modules :

The Music
The Lyrics
The Arrangement

1. The Music

(Week 1-3)

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
- Progressions in Minor key

- **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

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

- Purpose of Melody
- Melody with Chords
- Types of Melodies
- Creating Melodic Hooks
- Melodic Stability
- Developing a Melody

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

2. The Lyrics

(Week 4-7)

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 4 & 5*)

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

- **Prosody** (*Week 6*)

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

- **Rhyme Schemes** (*Week 7*)

- Stable Rhymes
- Unstable Rhymes
- Importance of Vowels
- Syllables & Consonants
- Perfect Rhymes
- Phonetically Related Rhymes

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

3. The Arrangement

(Week 8)

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**
- **Horizontal Arrangement**
- **Instrument Specific Arrangement**

- Drums & Bass
- Guitars & Keys
- Vocal Arrangement

(Assignments & Class Projects on Module)

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