

Lyric Writing

Summary

This is a 12 week course with classes occurring once a week for one hour each.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

In this course we discuss the many different sources for finding lyrics for songs, and what to do with them once found. We also analyze the lyrics of hit songs to reveal the elements that give it mass appeal.

Week 1 – Finding lyrics

- Inspiration
 - Dreaming
 - Waking up
 - Shower
 - Repetitive tasks
 - Shaving
 - Walking
 - Exercising
 - Driving
 - Altered consciousness
 - Dreams & dream journal
 - Object writing
 - 10 minute object writing exercise
- Observation
 - Other songs
 - TV & Movies
 - Conversations
 - Tutorials
 - Reading
- Homework: Capture as many ideas as you can for next class presentation

Week 2 – Key elements Part 1

- Rhyme scheme
- Imagery
 - Create an image pallet through class participation
- Similes
- Metaphors
- Cliches
- Internal rhyme
- Contrast
- Creating a strong title
- Homework: Capture more ideas

Week 3 Key elements Part 2

- Contrast
- Alliteration
- Internal rhyme
- Hook
- Repetition
- Writing exercise using all of the above

Week 4 – Generating lyrics

- Working from a title
- Making metaphors
- Tools
 - Rhyming dictionary
 - Thesaurus
 - Masterwriter

Week 5 – Writing a hook

- Rhythm & Meter
 - Note values
 - Time signatures
- The sing-along

- Make it memorable

Week 6 – The big picture

Knowing what you want to say in a song is key to creating effective verses. The hook is the goal. Getting to it from the verse and bridge is much easier when you know what it is you want to say.

Week 7 – Using the internet to generate lyrics

- Rhyming dictionary
- Thesaurus
- Google images

Week 8 – Sketching

- Using a note pad
- Using Masterwriter
- Keywords

Week 9 – Generating phrases

- Phrases containing a word
- Rhymed phrases
- Familiar phrases
- Effective use of cliches

Week 10 – Shaping a rhythmic motif

- Over a drum groove
- From speech

Week 11 – Student song creation project

In this session the students create the lyrics for an entire song and have it critiqued by the instructor.

- Song form
 - Most common song forms in modern music.
 - Understanding the different sections in a song.
 - Contrasting sections

Week 12 – Collaborating and Pitching

In this session we discuss collaborating with musicians, and the many pitching possibilities at different levels.

- Publishers
- Artists
- Labels
- Managers
- Producers
- Music libraries
- Music supervisors

Tuition

The base rate for this class is \$420 payable at time of registration prior to starting classes. Discounts are available for multiple simultaneous classes, and will be based on the number of classes taken.

Classes must have a minimum of 2 students to be held. If only one student registers for this class, the class will be canceled and the student will be offered the option of on-going private lessons at the current private lesson tuition rate.

Late payments

Tuition must be paid in full before a student can start this class. If tuition is paid late, the student may begin at the time of payment with no discount for time missed. It will be the student's responsibility to get the notes from other students for earlier classes.

Late arrivals

If a student arrives late for a class, it will be the student's responsibility to get notes for the portion of the class missed from other students.

No-shows

If a student does not show up for a class, it is the student's responsibility to get the notes for classes missed from other students. No make-up lessons or refunds will be available for no-shows.

Cancellations

Registration may be canceled and refunded prior to starting classes. However, if a student attends one class or more, there will be no refund for discontinuing.

Make-up lessons

The only time make-up lessons will be available will be in the event that the instructor has to cancel a class. If all students are available, a make up lesson may be in the same week as another class or as an extra hour extension of a regularly scheduled class. If not everyone is available for this type of make up, the course will be extended by the number of weeks that the instructor missed during the course. If someone is not available for either, the make up will be given on a day that works best for most of the students. Those who cannot make up the lesson may get the notes on that lesson from other students.