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How To Overcome The Lyric Writing Hurdles That Are Keeping You Behind

By Mantius Cazaubon

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The lyric writing side of songwriting is known to create an enormous number of problems for some folks. No matter how hard they try, they are unable to write a single line that they can be pleased with.

In many cases these very same people make phenomenal advancements in writing music and melodies. However they just can't seem to figure out how to come up with suitable lyrics to match them.

If you are facing such a situation, there's probably no need to worry. By taking certain appropriate steps you should be able to overcome lyric writing hurdles and write songs that deliver.

(1) Here are some essential ideas for overcoming these hurdles.

1. Collaboration

If you're very good at writing melodies but can't seem to write a single line, one solution might be collaboration. Instead of beating your head against the wall for ideas, find someone who is very good at writing lyrics and work together. You may be surprised at the wonders that can emanate from a combination of his excellence at writing lyrics and your brilliance at writing melodies.

2. Lyric writing tools

Perhaps you may be hoping for some other solution. While you don't mind the idea of collaboration, you want to allow yourself to get better at writing lyrics, instead of leaving it to someone else.

As far as I'm concerned, the importance of laying hold on good songwriting "tools" should never be underestimated. Educate yourself as much as you can. Make use of songwriting books, programs, courses, software, articles or whatever valuable resources that you have at your disposal.

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3. Motivation

You've probably heard it said a thousand times ... Without motivation, you won't go very far. This also applies to your lyric writing. While the songwriting "tools" outlined above can help you improve, without adequate motivation failure is inevitable.

(2) Here are a few tips to help you generate lyric writing ideas.

1. Use different lyrics to bring the same message across.

Choose a theme which is known to have made a few hits. What message does this theme bring across? Write different lyrics that bring the same message across. A typical example of this is John Denver's "I'm Leaving on a Jetplane" and Wyclef Jean's "Gone till November". These songs made hits

in different eras. Their basic message was similar ... Baby, you don't need to cry because I'll return.

2. Add a unique twist to a cliché.

Turn on your radio and you will hear clichés being repeated over and over. Using these very same clichés is simply a futile exercise. My suggestion is to add a unique twist to these clichés. This is something I am focusing on more and more.

A typical example of adding a unique twist to a cliché is found in Dianne Warren's "Unbreak my Heart" made popular by Toni Braxton. The ever popular cliché, "break my heart", was twisted.

(3) Here are three lyric writing suggestions.

1. Write a song about a particular incident. Your song should tell a story.

2. Write lyrics that have absolutely nothing to do with anything you've actually experienced.

3. Get lyric writing ideas from newspapers, magazines, movies, TV and so on.

Overcoming lyric writing hurdles involves a lot of determination, hard work and perseverance on your part. Implement the suggestions presented above and move one step closer to lyric writing success.

Mantius Cazaubon offers lots of valuable songwriting tips, techniques, suggestions and advice on his site

. Visit

for the ultimate truth

about lyric writing and songwriting.

Organizing Challenges and Hurdles

By Janet L. Hall

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By choice or happenstance you have become disorganized. Life seems to be spinning out of control, and until you make the choice to take some action things will only remain the same and probably get worse.

Do organizing challenges and hurdles stand between you and the life, office, or home you would like to have?

With every drawer, cabinet, closet, desk, office, and room you attempt to organize you might be faced with hurdles:

>>What to keep

>>What to toss

>>Where to store items

>>What to let go of

>>How to let go of your stuff

>>Where or who might need or benefit from stuff that's
STILL USABLE.

However, each HURDLE you overcome and each area you clear will make you stronger AND get you closer to having a less chaotic life.

Maybe you've tried on your own to declutter but couldn't get over the feelings of discomfort, or pain you might have had to face. Maybe your obstacles are deeper inside you; emotional baggage one of my clients calls it.

While dealing with all your stuff your feelings or thoughts might be upsetting to you as you sort, toss, and organize. You might feel anxious or stressed out, or unable to make decisions. You might not LIKE to face all your clutter.

Sir George Bernard Shaw said, "Never mind likes and dislikes; they are of no consequences. Just do what must be done. This may not be happiness, but it is greatness."

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What feelings or thoughts start bubbling to the surface when

you attempt to organize?

Write them down, or email me.

Would you agree that choosing to be and being organized would bring a POSITIVE change in your life?

Why not make a choice today towards positive change, and start taking control of your life? Positive change can be difficult; sticking to a schedule or routine can be demanding, and you might find you'll have to "give up something" to obtain your organizing goals.

Go ahead, challenge yourself and make a new choice today, I dare you. You must apply and make a special effort to your challenges.

Can you make a special effort to give up for an hour or a day of watching television, reading, or surfing the Internet to work on getting control of your life?

What can you give up?

Write it down and ask someone to hold you accountable.

What can you give up for a week or a weekend?

Write it down and ask someone to hold you accountable.

What are YOU willing to do to make a positive change in your life and your future?

Oh, I can hear you now! I see you're getting ready to zip me off an email with all your reasons and excuses. Please don't, I've heard them all. BUT what I want you to do is write out the excuses you are telling YOURSELF for your disorganization and then read the following:

In the January, 2001 issue of Oprah, Dr. Phil McGraw answered a person's question about losing weight in which I would like to quote here for you to think about. When Dr. Phil is speaking of weight or food you should substitute clutter or stuff you continue to bring into your life (or any other challenge you might be having):

"You aren't helpless, you aren't lost, and you don't

have the right to give up on yourself.

Your first and greatest challenge is not the struggle to lose 175 pounds, it's to overcome the self-defeating internal dialogue that has paralyzed you. You're telling yourself that you are incompetent, that you are unable

to create change. You're stalled because you are responding to this kind of self-inflicted criticism, not to the actual challenge of losing weight. Having convinced yourself of your ineptitude, you might even be consoling yourself with food, the very substance that has contributed to your problem."

Are you consoling yourself with buying more stuff or bringing more stuff into your life that you don't really need nor have room for?

So what are you going to do about your challenges and hurdles?

You can study, learn, and gather as much information as you want, but it won't make a tiny difference in your life unless you put it to work. I've discovered a little book that helped me to make quantum leaps in implementing good ideas. My friend Rick Butts has just published *The Big Butts of Life – Get Off Your Excuses and Do Big Things!*

Rick has excerpted some powerful ideas from this fun and easy read, and is offering them to you FREE as subscribers to OverHall IT!. Just send an email to <mailto:kicking@rickbutts.com?subject=janethall> for Rick's excellent three day mini-course, and start kicking those Big Butts (excuses,) out of the door and start doing the things you really want!

Good Luck and let me know how you are doing.

Smiles, not Piles,

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