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Making Your Own Music: Songwriting Basics

By Sintilia Miecevole

Whether you are a teenager or are well into your golden years, it is never too late to explore your

creative side, especially if you are interested in music. Songwriting is an excellent way to express your thoughts and feelings and to communicate them to your friends and family, even if you have no aspirations of musical fame or fortune. If you are interested in selling or performing your songs, however, you should be aware that it is a hard road and that very few songwriters achieve great fame or fortune, and especially not instantly. Nonetheless, if you have realistic expectations, you will find that writing music is a worthwhile experience whether it is a hobby or a profession.

People write songs in many different ways. Some writers compose the music first, while others first write the words. For some, the words and the melody come to them at the same time, while others write the melodies first and write the words last. No matter what order you are comfortable with, you will eventually have to decide what the song is about. There are a variety of different types of songs ranging from songs that tell fictional stories to songs that communicate deep personal feelings.

If you decide to write a story song, a good first exercise is to write about a news story or about something you've read in the newspaper. That way you can use your first song to hone your word choosing skills without the pressure of coming up with your own story. However, if you already have an idea for a story to tell, you can write it out in poem form and try to make appropriate rhymes and structures that help communicate what happens in the song.

Because music is so expressive, many songwriters use their compositions to express how they feel, whether it be about a person or a situation or even geographic location. Writing these types of songs can be highly personal, so every person does it differently. When you have a strong feeling about something, write it down in a notebook and come back to it later. You might think of a good line that expresses an emotion really well, and if you remember it you might be able to build an entire song around it. Having quiet time to think is always helpful when you are trying to write a song.

Writing the actual music for a song can be done in many different ways depending on your musical prowess and your focus. If you write mostly to communicate words, then a few well-chosen guitar chords might be all of the accompaniment you need. However, if you are an instrumental virtuoso, your

approach to writing music will be quite different. Many people think of a musical idea and play it over and over again until they think of a melody. Often times, songwriters will construct whole pieces, melody and all, without even knowing what the song is going to be about. Once the melody is complete, the writer will sit down and think about lyrics that fit the feeling behind the music and will go from there.

Once you have put together your words and music, you might feel the need to perform your new song. It is always a good idea to play for friends and family first before trying to play to a crowd. When you feel comfortable enough playing your song, you should consider visiting an open mic night at a local coffeehouse or bar. At open mic nights, songwriters can play one or more of their songs to an appreciative and attentive audience. Performers can discuss their craft with other writers, making it a fun way to learn more about the writing process.

Undoubtedly, Sintilia Micevole has the site

<http://www.fjpmusic.com>

to help you not only with your

songwriting skills, but help with getting your writing to the decision makers in the music business...and you don't have to be able to write music either. To connect with songwriters all over the planet and for ideas visit

<http://www.fjpmusic.com>

The Life And Times Of John Lennon

By Scott Michaels

John Winston Ono Lennon, MBE (9 October 1940 - 8 December 1980) was an iconic 20th century composer and singer of popular music with Paul McCartney as Lennon McCartney throughout the 1960s, and was the founding member of The Beatles.

Lennon's songwriting was an integral part of The Beatles' profound commercial and critical impact. His melodies, written during the Lennon–McCartney era, and later, in his solo career, are distinctive and unashamedly romantic.

Lennon's lyrics reflected his personal and career demands, philosophical outlook, his unease with his fame and current events. He and McCartney popularized the use of electronic effects in rock music.

Lennon, on television and in films such as *A Hard Day's Night* (1964), and by press conferences and interviews, revealed his rebellious, iconoclastic nature and quick, irreverent wit. Lennon channeled his fame and penchant for controversy into his work as a peace activist, artist and author. He was murdered in New York City in December 1980.

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In 2002, the BBC polled the British public about the 100 Greatest Britons of all time. Respondents voted Lennon into eighth place.

Lennon had a profound influence on rock 'n' roll and in expanding the genre's boundaries during the 1960s. He is widely considered, along with McCartney, to be one of the most influential singer–songwriter–musicians of the 20th century.

Many of the songs written exclusively or primarily by Lennon, however, are more introspective -- often in the first person -- and more personal than McCartney's.

His most surreal pieces of songwriting, "Strawberry Fields Forever" and "I Am the Walrus", are examples of his unique style. Lennon's partnership in songwriting with McCartney involved him – many times – in complementing and counterbalancing McCartney's upbeat positive outlook with the other side of the coin, as one of their songs, "Getting Better" demonstrates.

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Exploring the John Lennon Legend.

<http://lennonlegend.info/index.html>



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