

Progressions: Songwriting – with Martin Gilmore

Section 4 Writing Prompts

1. Incorporate silence into your song.
2. Build a song like a house.
3. Sit outside for half an hour and listen to the sounds around you. Incorporate those sounds into your song.
4. Ask a question that can't be answered.
5. When everything is going wrong, write a song. What would it be about?
6. Write an optimistic song about something that seems hopeless.
7. Inside or outside?
8. Write a song about a swamp.
9. How far is too far?
10. Write a song about St. Louis, New Orleans, Santa Fe, or San Francisco.
11. Write a song about a ruined Christmas.
12. What was your dream job as a kid?
13. You can't go home again.
14. Nothing ever changes.
15. How does it feel to forget?
16. Have you ever felt that you have maintained a relationship out of obligation (i.e. spouse, significant other, family member, professional, etc.) Are you still in that relationship? How does it feel / How did it feel? What did the end of that relationship look/feel like? Tell the story.
17. Every tree is different.
18. Would you build a house out of brick, stone, or wood? Why?
19. What do you wish you would have said, but it is too late now?
20. Do you feel nostalgia? What are you nostalgic for?
21. Tell us about a day in high school.
22. Use a line from a poem in a song.