

# Progressions: Songwriting – with Martin Gilmore

## Section 2 Writing Prompts

1. Write a song that is a countdown or a “count up.”
2. Write a song using “[The Memory Palace](#)” as an outline.
3. Who is your hero? Write a song about a conversation (real or not) where you told them that they were your hero.
4. What do you think of as your worst mistake in life? Write a song about that, but use an imaginary character instead of yourself.
5. Write a song that starts big and ends in a singular moment.
6. What is your favorite food? Why? What does that food represent? Write a song about it.
7. Speaking of food, write a song that focuses on taste.
8. Have you ever made a pilgrimage, either personal or religious (or both)? What did you learn? Did you find meaning, or relief, or whatever you were seeking? Can you help others find it?
9. Write a song about God.
10. Write a song about no god.
11. Write a song while sitting in a weird place.
12. Why do you write songs? Can you answer that question in a song?
13. Where would you be living if it wasn’t where you are now? How did you get there? Who is there with you? Tell us about it in a song.
14. Write a song using one of these questions “What’s going on out there?” or “Have you seen me anywhere?” or “When can I come home?”
15. Go to your favored news source. Read several stories about current events. Write a song telling the story of that article.
16. Boubacar Traore, a famous Malian singer wrote a song called “Duna Ma Yelema”. The central idea of the song is “The world didn’t change, the people changed”. Can you re-interpret this idea or expand on it? [Here’s a link to a video of Boubacar playing this song.](#)
17. Tell us about your mother, father, sister or brother.
18. Religion has saved many lives and ruined many lives. Write a gospel song with one of these positions in mind.