

# Revising Music - Questions to Ask Your Song

What is the primary emotion the lyrics are trying to communicate? \_\_\_\_\_

## Melody & Hooks

1. Does the melody support the lyric or compete with it?
2. Does the melody feel memorable and distinct or overly familiar?
3. Is there a musical moment that makes the song easily recognizable?
4. Does the melody communicate the emotional character of the song?

## Harmony & Chord Motion

5. Are there more chords than the song needs?
6. Does the harmony match the emotional tone of the song?
7. Could chord substitutions improve the emotional texture or movement of the song?
8. Could reharmonization strengthen the melody or emotional movement of the song?
9. Would a modulation or tonal shift help change the emotional energy of the song?

## Form & Dynamics

10. Does the chorus feel memorable, emotionally distinct, and easy to sing?
11. If there is a bridge, does it create contrast and reset the listeners ear before the last chorus?
12. Could the chorus begin differently to create stronger contrast with the verses?
13. Do transitions between sections feel smooth and intentional?
14. Is this the right tempo and time signature for the emotional feel of the song?

## **Arrangement & Texture**

15. Do different sections change texture in ways that support the emotion or story?
16. Can you hear a specific arrangement or ensemble for this song?
17. Are there instrumental textures that could strengthen the emotional character of the music?
18. Are there places where less music would create more emotional impact?

## **Simplification & Focus**

19. What could be simplified?
20. Is every musical idea helping communicate the central emotional point of the song?