

Songwriting Workshop

Finding ideas and turning them into songs - With Martin Gilmore

Songwriting Is a Practice

Songwriting is not a mystery, it is a craft that you can practice and improve upon. Developing skills of observation, practicing writing, collecting ideas, building a discipline, are all elements of songwriting and they are things you can practice that will lead to real improvements in your songwriting. This workshop will cover the basic elements of a song, help you develop your creative resource, and help you organize your craft to build a productive discipline.

Elements of Songwriting

What are the things you need to consider when writing a song?

Lyrics - The words that make up a song.

Melody - a rhythmic succession of single tones organized as an aesthetic whole.

Rhythm & Groove - the aspect of music comprising all the elements (such as accent, meter, and tempo) that relate to forward movement. The feel and pulse of a song.

Chord Progression - *a sequence of chords played one after another.*

Form & Structure - The arrangement of song sections (verse, chorus, bridge, lift, interludes, etc.)

Arrangement - The instrumentation, production and performance qualities, vocal parts, section order, that comprises the performance of a song.

Audience - the people who are the intended listeners for a song.

Build Your Songwriting Resource

Ideas are everywhere. The trick is not losing them.

1. Carry a notebook and pen.
2. Keep a running note on your phone for lyrics, titles, phrases, and observations.
3. Learn to use Voice Memos (or carry a small recorder) to capture melodies and lyric ideas.
4. Save photographs, newspaper clippings, maps, ticket stubs, letters, and other things that spark memories.
5. Listen to conversations. Read books. Explore new places. Stay curious.
6. Don't worry about whether an idea is "good." Collect first. Judge later.

Build a Writing Habit

Creativity thrives on routine.

Where will I write?

When will I write?

How often will I write?

What usually gets in the way?

How can I remove that obstacle?

Questions Worth Collecting

Instead of looking for songs, look for questions.

- Why did that happen?
- Who used to live here?
- What changed?
- What happened next?
- What does this place remind me of?
- What would this object say if it could talk?
- What story is everyone overlooking?
- What am I curious about today?

Martingilmore.com/songwritingworkshop



Songwriting Workshop
With Martin Gilmore
www.martingilmore.com