

5 Steps From An Idea To A Song Ready To Record - Handout

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Introduction

When it comes to training, mentorship and finding a songwriting community, I encourage you to pray and ask God to do two things:

1. Ask God to _____ people into your life who you will need to guide you.
2. _____ the _____ people who can help lead you and encourage you.

Use resources like YouTube and other websites.

I recommend www.musicademy.com for the place to go for honing your musical skills and craft.

How do I come up with new songwriting ideas?

This is the most important thing to remember:

- Never leave home without the ability to _____

I promise you won't remember that "great idea" by the time you get home.

- Ask God to teach you to be a _____

You need to learn to really pay attention in all circumstances in a different and new way. Listen; really listen, wherever you are. Then write down all your ideas and try and keep them in one place (or two places if you use voice memos as well as written notes).

After a while you'll find you have a lot of thoughts written down.

- Then you can start to _____

You'll probably find a theme to your thoughts. Your heart will naturally be attracted to certain themes at certain times of your life. AND that's great because

- Writing out of your _____ is important.

That's the best way to show authenticity and people want to hear that.

Lyric Creation

You're probably asking yourself if your songs have to rhyme. They don't, but

- Do not jump around between _____



Even if they can't say why, that will just be annoying to your listener. So, if you're going to rhyme, do that for the whole song with the same rhyming scheme.

Do I have to always include verse, chorus and bridge?

- The bridge is the _____ and often that is the _____ of the song.

Don't squash too many thoughts into one song. Instead

- Find a _____ and keep it _____ to the song.

Like a book, a song should be a journey. But unlike a book, a song is a much shorter journey. Be very careful that you

- Do not rush your song to a _____.

Leave your listener with some questions and room for their own thought development. A song can be left "hanging" because

- The listener or the congregation needs space to _____ by themselves.

We must invite people into the presence of God through song.

Music Creation

Should I write the music or the words first? There's no straight answer to that. If you get an idea for a melody, wherever you are

- Get that melody _____ somewhere.

Voice memos are your friends!!

What if I am really good at writing lyrics but I can't write or create music?

- Find yourself someone who _____ but doesn't write _____

Co-writing is fun. Just be careful who you choose. Ask God to lead you into this.

When is a song finished?

Don't be tempted to tweak and edit things to death. But also, don't fall into the temptation to not edit your own work at all. This is usually my process:

1. Write it (words and music).
2. _____ it for a few hours/days/weeks.
3. Record it in the most basic way possible – on your phone is great.
4. _____ for a couple of days.



FINISHED

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When you come back to it, listen with a critical ear and ask yourself:

1. Are there any _____ words or phrases that shouldn't be there?
2. Have I used this lyric in another of my songs? (This is a sneaky one!!)
3. Have I used phrases that are _____ in general?
4. Have I tried to squeeze a three-syllable word into a two-syllable space?
5. Am I taking my listener on a _____?
6. Is there room for my listener to _____ what God might be saying to them in them this song?

And specifically with regards to the melody, ask yourself:

7. What melody changes should I make? (For instance, if every line ends with the melody going down, think about making one of them _____ and take it up instead.)
8. Could you maybe sing a third up, only in the final verse (for instance)?
9. Do you want an octave jump somewhere for the purpose of _____?

Be kindly critical of your own work and be willing to change things where necessary. Most importantly, don't fall into the trap of never finishing a song.

- After the editing process is complete, _____ and tell yourself it's finished!

Take the leap!



If God has put the desire to write songs in your heart, do not ignore that. Instead

- Nurture your songwriting and allow it to _____ into something beautiful.

God has a purpose for your writing but

- If you don't _____ something then God can't use it!

Don't be intimidated by the thought of sharing your song with others. Share it with God first in your own personal worship time. Then ask the Father who He wants you to share it with and when He gives you the opportunity, take it.

- Let's be those who allow God to use us in _____ He chooses.

We serve a creative God who has endless ideas and thoughts, and unending ways of reaching vastly different people. Listen to the call of God on your life and respond with obedience.

- _____ your King by putting _____ to music.

And finally, enjoy every second of it!

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