

Songwriting Checklist

By Jake R Brady

- Theme
 - A lot of people can relate to the song idea.
 - The song has a unique or fresh approach.
 - The idea of a song is believable.
 - The song doesn't confuse the listener with too many themes or details that don't lead to the hook.
 - The characters are interesting or believable.
- Melody
 - Melody shows good contour, with a distinctive shape.
 - There is verse that would serve as a climactic point for that melody.
 - Verse melody works its way upward, and connects somewhat seamlessly to the chorus.
 - Chorus melody resides a bit higher than the verse melody.
 - Bridge melody (if applicable) is generally higher than the chorus.
- Lyrics
 - Plain, everyday language that connects with average people.
 - Ensure that verse lyrics primarily describe events and situations.
 - Ensure chorus lyrics primarily describe reactions and emotions.
 - Avoid being unnecessarily wordy.
 - There is a memorable title or hook.
 - There is a strong opening line.
 - The lines are concise and every word counts.
- Overall Impact
 - The song has a beginning, a middle and an end.
 - All the verses are strong and non-repetitive.
 - The message is powerful.
 - The song generates emotion.
 - The storyline is good.
 - The song resolves itself to the listener's satisfaction.