

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.