

A new song in 28 steps

Step 1: Take a songwriters exercise.

Step 2: Take from the exercise a good idea for a song.

Step 3: Take from the exercise good sentences, paragraphs, and words.

Step 4: Write down the story of the song. This is freewriting, do not think too much just let everything that comes to mind flow and jots it down. There are no rules. Do not edit at this stage!

Step 5: Take from the freewriting the good sentences, paragraphs, and words.

Step 6: Write down the end-words of your chosen sentences and find good rhyming words with Rhymezone.com.

Step 7: Determine the form of the song. You can choose from 6 different forms or just mix these 6 into your own form that best fits the song.

Step 8: Determine the rhyme structure.

Step 9: Stick on a big board the letters (A, B, CH, pCh, C) of the form.

Step 10: Stick the good sentences and paragraphs you have on this stage on the right spot on the board.

Step 11: Come up with a title for the song and stick it in the middle on top of the board.

Step 12: Determine what every segment of the song is about.

Step 13: Take the segment of the song for which you have the most vivid images in your mind and you feel the most enthusiastic about. Start freewriting about this segment. There are no rules. Just write everything down that comes to you. There are no rules. Do not edit at this stage.

Step 14: Repeat steps 5 and 6 for the chosen segment.

Step 15: Come up with the entire lyrics for that segment and stick it on the board.

Step 16: Come up with a first melody idea for the first segment.

Step 17a: Go back to step 13 to 15 and write down the other segments on the first melody idea. Make a different first melody for your chorus, pre-chorus, bridge and other elements of your song.

Step 17b: Check the number of syllables you need in every sentence. And write the next segment on that number of syllables.

Step 17c: Everytime you write something good, you stick it on the big board. Keep changing en shifting with sentences until you are satisfied with the entire segment.

Step 18: Make the melody for the entire song. I use MuseScore 2.2 free source software for this step. I like MuseScore 2.2 because everything I do is immediate visual on the staff. And creative changing is very easy in this process. Also to raise the notes or put it in a different key. But you can use your instrument or a DAW software too.

Step 19: Type the words under the melody line (in MuseScore). Or sing the entire song on your chosen melody with all the segments.

Step 20: Check if everything sings smoothly or if some words or sentences don't quite fit into the rhythm.

Step 21: Change the wrong parts with the use of Rhymezone.com

Step 22: Rewrite the not fitting or bumpy words and sentences.

Step 23: Determine the tempo of the song. You can type it into MuseScore 2.2.

Step 24: Make sure the entire song is as best as you can make it. Be completely satisfied with the result. Not sure, then push yourself further and make it right.

Step 25: Make sure you have written everything about your song down. I write in MuseScore the title of the song and as under title I write 'Melody and Lyrics'.

Step 26: Make an audio file (mp3) of your song. I do that in MuseScore.

Step 27: Make sure you have it filed and have made a backup of the file.

Step 28: Mak a pdf file of the score or other music notation so you can share the song later with the right people.

These are the steps I take when I write a new song. It works wonders for me! I write with this step-by-step program in 6 months 50 new songs. From these 50 songs, I chose the 20 best songs. I make a demo of these 20 songs into Cubase. From these 20 demos, I take the 3 best and send these songs to the right people.

And then I start all over again for the next 6 months. Your goal is to have 1 #1 hit every third year.