



SONGCRAFTING 101 Sample Syllabus 2024

Instructor: George Woods

Email: booking@georgewoodsmusic.com

Class Location: Zoom

Number of Available seats: 6

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Songcrafting 101 is a 10 week course designed to give students a new and expanded set of tools for generating ideas and refining existing compositions. Each week will alternate between lyrical techniques, musical techniques, and structural techniques. Students will be provided with take home exercises to be completed and shared the following week for class feedback.

This course is designed for an intermediate level of musicianship. In order to gain the highest benefit from the course, students should have at least a minor amount of previous musical experience. Including a basic understanding of chords and melody. While it will certainly be helpful, no Instrumental ability is required. Students can work with tracks and non-traditional instruments, such as DAW software in lieu of an instrument.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Identify and compose songs using various song forms.
- Utilize and expand on various lyrical and musical techniques.
- Identify the emotional coherence and prosody of their music in experiential and analytical ways.
- Use new tools to get unstuck from writer's block.

COURSE MEETING TIMES:

Section 001 - Tuesday nights from 6pm to 8pm

Section 002 - Thursday afternoons from 2:30pm - 4:30pm

SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

Writing Better Lyrics 2 by Pat Pattison

<https://a.co/d/ipl1laC>

The Craft of Songwriting by Scarlet Keys

<https://a.co/d/foFJj9F>

All other materials will be distributed by instructor

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

WEEK	TOPICS	GOALS
1	"Words you can Taste" Object Writing and imagery	Students will learn about how to use free writing and imagery as a means of expanding their musical creativity
2	Groove Lego Exercises. Melodic rhythms in natural language	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- learn to identify the natural rhythmic and melodic music in everyday language- Learn to create and organize musical sections around melodic rhythms.
3	Coloring and Angles and Recoloring your lyrics.	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learn how to discover and dig for more unique lyrical approaches to their songs.- Learn how to reinterpret language in various ways in order to create dramatic effect.
4	How to Refrain	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learn to identify refrains, hooks, and highlighted moments in songs.- Learn several different options for how to structure a song around refrain lines.
5	The Harmonic Narrative	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learn to identify the inherent emotive qualities of chords.
6	When to Chorus. How to Chorus. Musical pattern recognition.	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Learn several techniques for creating stability and instability in a section of music.- Write a Verse/Chorus song without a Pre

WEEK	TOPICS	GOALS
		Chorus.
7	Simple Complexity vs Complex Simplicity	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn how to balance and manage the level and density of information in their lyrics. - Perform meta analysis of supplied songs and their own original songs.
8	Melodic Extraction	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn to identify the inherent melodies in conversational speech. - Learn to utilize melodic arc to create and control the sense of “tone of voice” in their songs.
9	Why to Pre-Chorus, Post Chorus, and Building Bridges.	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learn about utilizing Pre-Choruses and Bridges in their song forms to create more complex narratives. - Learn how to identify song forms in terms of Alphabetical analysis rather than the standard Song form analysis.
10	Wrap Up	Students will synthesize and share their experience in the course in a round table style discussion and offer songs for feedback from the class.