

Songwriting School



with Charlotte Yates

Year 1 programme

THURSDAYS | 6PM | STARTS 1 FEBRUARY 2024



SONGWRITINGSCHOOL.CO.NZ

Programme Overview - Year 1

Topics cover songwriting craft & creativity each week. Classes are live online, with plenty of room for questions and discussion. After each class, we send an email with further resources & a short (optional!) assignment. If you can't make class, we send a Vimeo link to watch later.

***Songs, songwriters (& the audience!)**

***How to start - what have you got**

***A way with words - access all areas**

***Titles - steering wheels & first impressions**

***Structure - a framework to deliver in sections**

***Lyrics - literally and figuratively**

***How to use harmony to write a melody**

***Major Harmony - how major chords work in song**

***Structure - AACA (aka AABA) - adding a bridge**

***Themes - what's love got to do with it?**

***Suspended chords - tension andrelease**

***Style - the blues continue to influence**

***Melody - words first!**

***Melody - kickstart with a beat**

***Lyrics - who is singing the song?**

***How to make chord progressions**

***Structure - what's the prechorus?**

***Style - ballads across genres**

***Structure - beyond the mainframe**

***More minor, more room to move.**

***Process - thinking about your own**

Style - pop - what it is and isn't

Lyrics - how to write similes, like a boss

Process - rewriting, momentum and comparison

Structure - prosody knits it all together

Creativity - the gold within

***Melody - a tune from thin air**

***Themes - developing ideas**

***Harmony - infrastructure & mood**

***Rhythm - the heartbeat**

***Structure - AAA - a structure based on verses**

***Melody from scales - a rich vein to mine**

***Rhyme - do I have to?**

***Minor Harmony - why we love sad songs**

***Lyrics - action, images & details count.**

***Structure - ABAB - meet the chorus**

***Harmony - seventh heaven**

***Style - "three chords and the truth"**

***Lyrics - time, place, plot**

***Melody building - same, same, different**

***Titles - deep dive - a lot in a little**

***Harmony - borrowed chords spice it up**

***Style - rock is huge**

***Process - motivation vs passion**

***Prompts - can work miracles**

***Rhythm - stress/unstress and scansion**

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