

Advanced Songwriting for Worship

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Why do we love singing the old hymns?

Most lyrics that fall short will do so in one of these 3 ways –

- _____
- _____
- _____

Careful Theology in songwriting

Theology

Song

Poetry

Reality

The core of songwriting is writing words that long to sing.

Prosody

A couple of notable exceptions:

To rhyme or not to rhyme

Not rhyming:

Yet I will praise (Andy Park)

The heart of worship (Matt Redman)

Repetitive wordplay (non-rhyming)

Alliteration

Anaphora

Melody

How do we write songs that other people can own as their own?

Motifs - the building blocks of strong melodies

What is a motif?

A short group of notes of unique design that occur throughout a song as a unifying element.

Everlasting (Doerksen & Unruh)
A new Argentina (Evita) Andrew Lloyd Webber

Alternate terms for 'Motif'

'Hook', 'riff' (*More commonly used as a guitar term*) or 'figure'

Actually, a figure is the instrumental motif that repeats throughout a song that helps tie it together. Many times this is created by the producer/arranger.

Process – what comes first?

Melody must _____ over _____, but _____ must ultimately rule over _____!!!

Melody Tips

Be yourself. Let the melody flow naturally from you personality.

Mechanical melodies don't move people - human ones do!

Spend time away from your instrument working on your melody.

Remember contrast & dynamics

Use repetition to your advantage!

Make sure your high point melodically is your high point lyrically!!
(prosody)