

Bay Phoenix Studios

Songwriting Tips: Elements Of A Song

Don't write another song before reading these tips! Learn the elements of a song to maximize your songwriting potential!

Intro:

Intros are one of the most important elements of your song. As most people only listen to the first 5-10 seconds of a song to see if they like it. Here are some techniques to make an amazing intro:

- *Chord Progression*
- *Count Off (i.e. 5,4,3,2,1)*
 - *Vinyl Filters*
 - *4 Bars Acapella*
 - *Instrumental*
- *Different Key Signature*
- *Hard Chorus/Hook Intro*
 - *Hard Verse Intro*
- *Chorus/Hook Chord Progression*
 - *Verse Chord Progression*
- *Sound FX or Atmospheric Sounds*
- *Contrast (i.e. Staccato instead of Legato)*
- *Play Rubato (i.e. Casual, loosely in sync with the tempo, tightening in time for first Verse)*
 - *Dialogue*
 - *Fade In*
- *Play Chorus/Hook Vocal Melody With Instrument*
 - *Use Song Title*

Verse:

This is where the story is told. This is where the body of details lies. Alluding to the title of the song here is a good idea. The story generally progresses as the next verse comes. A good tip to write a second and third verse is to ask yourself:

“What Happened After?”

“And Then What?”

“What Else?”

The length of a verse is generally 8, 12, or 16 bars. The ending of a verse should act as an opener to the Chorus/Hook.

You can get creative in this area and add a Bridge or Pre-Chorus to make that connection as well.

Bridge:

A Bridge is a body in the song that is typically only 4 to 8 bars in length. This section is generally different lyrically and melodically from the rest of the song. A well-constructed Bridge will incorporate both elements.

Pre-Chorus:

This section of the song is meant to ensconce the connection between the Verse and Chorus/Hook elements. This can also be referred to as a “Channel”, or “Set-Up”.

They're generally only 4 to 8 bars long. This must connect the Verse to the Hook both lyrically and melodically.

Pre-Choruses don't have to follow every Verse or Bridge before the Chorus/Hook. You can use a Pre-Chorus before the last Chorus/Hook as a means to accent the ending and signal the end of the song.

Songs that include a Pre-Chorus in the first Verse almost always have one in every subsequent Verse.

In songs that have 2 Verses prior to their Chorus, the Pre-Chorus typically only appears in the Verse immediately before the Chorus/Hook.

Chorus/Hook:

The Chorus or Hook is the most memorable part of the song.

The lyrics are generally repetitive and more often than not, contains the song Title. Typically the Chorus/Hook has the same lyrics and melody throughout the song. A song with 2 or 3 Choruses/Hooks in a song is optimal. However there are very successful song structures without Choruses/Hooks.

A Chorus/Hook is generally 8 or 16 bars long.

Post-Chorus:

Post-Choruses/Hooks are additional hooks that can also be referred as “B Choruses”.

You can use a Post-Chorus on the last Chorus/Hook as a means to accent the ending and signal the end of the song. A Post-Chorus/Hook might have a completely different set of lyrics or change minor elements of Chorus/Hook. This element is a great way to wrap up a song and really make it hit home.

What's Next?

Now that you're on your way to writing your next hit, it's time to start thinking about Recording, Production, and Post-Production. At Bayphoenixstudios.com we work with the Artist to accurately help make your vision become a reality. Please visit [this](#) page for more information.

For More Information Regarding Song Structure, Click [Here!](#)

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