Secrets To Successful Songwriting

6 Easy Songwriting Tips That Will “Unblock” The Barriers That Are Holding You Back From Writing Your Best Work

Dear friend,

Sometimes it’s the "slight" changes that make all the difference.

Time after time in the years of research I did into the creative process I came across fascinating things that required just a "tiny" change to reap huge rewards.

Just think for a moment about the "golf swing". If you’ve played golf before, you know how frustrating it can be!

The tiniest error in swing can send your ball flying into the sand... or worse... the water!

But just as the tiniest error can send you into a devastating downward spiral, the tiniest correction can double or triple your effectiveness.

What I’m about to teach you now are seven small "tweaks" you can make to your songwriting approach that will cause immediate improvements in your songwriting ability.

Don’t mistake the simplicity of these ideas for a solution that’s “too easy”. Because if you actually try these ideas, you will find they are incredibly powerful.

Just remember, it only takes a small change in a golf swing to change the ball’s path from flying lakeward (if that’s even a word!) to floating gracefully straight up the fairway and onto the green.

With that said, let’s get into the seven small changes you can make to your songwriting approach that will have you writing in the flow of creativity, and send the quality of your songs sky high...
Tip 1: Record Your “Creating Sessions”

Tweak number one is to record every second of your creative sessions.

Now there are two important elements to this, so bare with me for a moment.

The first element to this is to use a simple recording device to record yourself as you play your instrument.

When you are searching for ideas, you need to document them, and recording every moment is the easiest way to do this.

More importantly though, by recording every second you are eliminating a process that can savagely block your best creativity.

Here’s the thing.

The vast majority of musicians will be creating ideas with their instrument and also trying to remember what they are playing at the same time.

The problem with this is they are engaging the critical side of their mind, which blocks their creative facilities. The psychology behind this is quite fascinating, but instead of spending extra time going into it, just give this idea a shot and see for yourself as you suddenly become more creative!

Set a recorder running, and then play freely without trying to edit yourself, or trying to remember what you are playing.

It’s amazing how freeing this can be, and creating becomes much more fun and effortless.

Ok, so the second part to this tip is to do with lyrics. And here’s what you need to do...

As you are writing a page of lyrics, you are actually documenting them automatically because you are writing them on paper!

But here’s something you can do to increase your creativity and get into a “flow” really easily.

Instead of internally editing yourself... (Have you ever sat there trying to craft the “perfect” phrase, and because of this don’t end up writing a thing?)... write freely with no concern for the quality of what your writing.
Write down EVERYTHING that comes to mind. Even if in the back of your mind you hear a voice saying, “that's absolute rubbish”!

Writing down every idea that comes to you, just like with the sound recorder technique above gets your creative juices going. Instead of feeling "stuck", ideas will flow out of you.

And you'll find that the longer you write, the better the quality of your ideas will be.

If you've ever been in a “brainstorming session” you will understand what I mean.

In a brainstorming session for a company or some other group, a team will sit around and say out loud or write on paper EVERY SINGLE IDEA that comes to mind.

There is something magical about this process. Because as the team gets deeper and deeper into the session, they begin connecting with their more powerful creative resources and their ideas become more sophisticated, more insightful...

... And in some cases, pure genius.

If you've ever been involved in a session such as this, you will know that on most occasions the best ideas seem to always pop up right at the end of the session.

It's the same with writing a page of lyrics. As long as you keep writing every thing that comes to mind onto your page, you can experience this same “building of creative momentum”. And then all of a sudden something miraculous will pop into your head, and onto the page it goes!

The key here is to write every single little thing.

Don't edit yourself for a second. Instead of thinking "that idea isn't worth writing down", simply write it down anyway with the knowledge that it will bring you to something much more profound and inspiring.

**Tip 2: Listen Back To Your Creative Sessions**

The second piece of advice I have for you is to listen back to your creative sessions.

It's best to wait a little while after the creative sessions has finished, and then relax into a comfortable couch and play back what you have just created.
The great thing about this is it's very enjoyable to hear the ideas you have created, and if you followed the advice above and didn't edit yourself as you were creating, you will be very pleased with the results.

More important though, as you listen back to the recording you will be taking in very important information.

As you listen you will notice ideas you like... ideas you don't like and everything in between. This information is CRUCIAL.

For example, let's just say that you hear a passage of music that you really don't like.

No problems. Because you are listening back to your recording and learning about this, the next time you sit down to create, it’s unlikely you’ll fall into a similar pattern.

Even better, when you hear an idea that is very pleasing to your ears, you will learn from this. And in your next creative session, you’ll find it easy to create similar pleasing themes, only this time they will be even higher in quality. This is magic and you have to try it.

Recording all of your creating and then listening back to it sends you on an upwards spiral to better and more inspiring song ideas.

The more you do this, the more you learn about what you like, what you don't like, and your ideas will magically improve as a result.

The reason for this occurrence is very obvious when you know a few basics about human psychology.

To give you a basic overview, humans learn much more from monitoring FEEDBACK after attempting a task then they do cramming information into their heads.

For example, can you remember being in school, and having a teacher shove loads of information down your throat, and then expect you to remember it?

As opposed to this, a much more effective way to learn is to actually ATTEMPT SOLVING a problem, and then monitor the information that comes back at you after this attempt...

When you do this, even if you initially fail you will learn much quicker.
Learning from a feedback loop allows you to "get" a concept at a much deeper level.

This is the reason that recording all of your creative sessions and then listening back is so effective. It creates a massive "feedback loop" and as you continue, the flow of ideas that you create will begin automatically mold itself to the quality and style that you want.

**Tip 3: Use Your Most Powerful Emotions/Desires to Drive Your Songwriting Process**

In one of the best selling "success" books of all time, Napoleon Hill revealed a secret that can unlock the doors to "genius".

And this secret is so easy to apply to songwriting it's almost like taking candy from a baby!

Here's the main jest of the secret.

You need to use your most powerful emotions or desires as a "gateway" to your best creativity.

Napoleon Hill spent over 20 years interviewing and learning from the most successful and powerful people on the planet, and he found something that all the so called "geniuses" of the world had in common.

These people were using powerful emotions or desires to "tap into" the ultra-creative faculties in their mind. And because of this they were having ingenious ideas that ended in bringing massive success and acclaim.

You can do the same thing in your songwriting.

Firstly, let me give you a few of the most powerful human emotions.

1. The desire to have sex.
2. Love
3. Any burning desire you may have.

Ok, so here's how you can use this today to become far more creative in your songwriting.

Just before you begin to create, bring up a picture in your mind of one of the above topics. For example, bring to mind a love affair you have had or fantasized about. Keep this image in your mind until you feel a powerful swell of love flow through your mind and body.
Once you reach this stage, begin to create on your instrument or start writing lyric ideas.

Try and maintain and ride this wave of emotion as you do this. (And remember to record every moment).

In doing this you are using your most powerful human emotions to drive your creating process.

Try this. In the end you will end up with a highly emotional and creative session.

And it’s incredibly fun too!

**Tip 4: Learn How to Play Music Created By Your Favorite Musicians**

There is a four step creative process that you can go through that finishes with you having miraculous strokes of inspiration every single time you undergo the process. (More about these four steps in later trainings)

The second step in this powerful process is called the “information stage”.

An important concept to understand is that to create magnificent song ideas, your mind requires the right information... the right *knowledge*.

An easy technique to help you acquire knowledge that will increase your creativity is to learn how to play songs created by musicians you respect and enjoy listening to.

This is *so much more* effective than trying to memorize chord progressions or scales. (A common but counter-productive technique taught by many songwriting teachers)

The reason is, by mimicking what your favorite musicians are playing, you are learning valuable information about the way this music you love was created.

As you do this, you will both consciously and unconsciously take in many insights as to how the piece was constructed, why it's played the way it is, and all the subtle nuances that make the piece of music work.

And even better...
If you use this strategy for many of your favorite musicians, you will notice that when you have your own creating sessions, elements of your favorite musicians will magically weave itself into your style.

You don't even need to think about it. By simply learning a few of your favorite songs, you will adopt some of the "magic" into your own songwriting.

One more tip...

You will get FAR MORE benefit from this idea if you transcribe the piece of music yourself. This means that instead of tracking down the music in sheet form, you listen to the song and make an attempt to work it out yourself.

Now, if this is beyond your reach, don't worry. It's still VERY effective to find the sheet music and learn it that way.

But if you are able to transpose it yourself (even if it will take a long time) I highly recommend you do so.

So to take action on this idea, here’s what you need to do.

1. Write down three songs that you LOVE that also contain stylistic elements that you would like in your music.
2. Choose the song you want to learn first. Listen very closely to it and see if you can work out how to play it on your instrument.

As you do this, listen for more than just the notes. Listen for the way the notes are played. The way the sounds are formed. And the way the different instruments sound in the piece. Try and re-create all these elements on your instrument as closely as possible.

3. Once you’ve used this strategy on song number one, work your way though song 2 and song 3.

Once you’ve done this with 3 different songs, you’ll be surprised how much insight you’ve had into how these pieces were constructed.

And as I mentioned earlier, when YOU go to create music yourself, this new knowledge you have will seamlessly weave it’s way into your creations, making them FAR more compelling and inspirational.
**Tip 5: How To Write Powerful, Emotional Lyrics**

When you want to write some lyrics, build a picture in your mind of the event/idea you want to write about.

Do not begin writing until you are actually *feeling the emotion and mood* from this particular event. Once you are actually living the event in your mind, you are ready to begin writing.

From this point you will be much more effective at communicating the ideas and mood from this event or idea.

Many people believe that lyrics are simply a few words cleverly arranged to bring about an emotional reaction from a listener. This is untrue.

The point of lyrics is to COMMUNICATE an idea or event. And the reason people have an emotional reaction to the words is because it triggers a memory within them (whether a past memory or "made up") that has some emotion attached to it.

For example, if you were describing the pain you went through after breaking up with a loved one, and someone who went through a similar situation heard the lyrics, it would trigger this past event in their mind (whether it consciously or unconsciously).

Because they have emotion attached to these memories, they will *feel emotion* as they hear your message.

Or maybe you communicated the idea of a perfect romance with your soul mate...

If you communicated this idea well enough you would be sure to bring about a reaction in someone who has fantasized about having a romance of this kind.

The main idea is to COMMUNICATE your ideas/experiences through your lyrics. And as mentioned earlier, a great way to do this is to relive the situation in your mind and once again feel that emotion.

From this point, write completely unedited and your words will flow, and most importantly communicate what you're trying to get across.

One more hint. If you remember, I earlier mentioned three of the most powerful human emotions.
1. The desire to have sex
2. Love
3. Any strong desire

If you choose to write lyrics that appeal to these emotions, you will be sure to arouse powerful emotion in your listeners.

**Tip 6: Create/ Edit/ Create/ Edit**

When you write music or lyrics you must keep the "creating" and the "editing" separate.

The worse "creativity killer" is the analytical part of your mind. This is the part that judges everything you do. If you try and judge something AS you are creating it, the creative part of your mind "shuts down".

This concept actually goes very deep, and has a lot to do with the parts of your mind that are "conscious" and "unconscious", but you don’t actually need to understand these topics to make this principle work for you.

All you need to do is this.

While you are creating something... for example playing your instrument in the search for new ideas... writing down lyrics... or “jamming” with a group of musicians...

You must turn off your “internal editor”. Instead of concentrating on how good your ideas are, allow yourself to create without judgment. Once you have finished creating, *only then* is it time to consult your inner critic and evaluate your work.

So what I’m saying is...

*Always keep your creating and your editing separate!*

If you stick to this create-edit-create cycle, you will be working *with* your minds natural abilities instead of against it.

Following this principle will also make your songwriting process much faster and less frustrating. It will also allow you to unblock the barriers that are stopping you from accessing your very best ideas.
So There You Have It…

Some of my very favorite ways to take your songwriting to a new level. All of these tips don’t require large amounts of time or any extraordinary effort. They are simply small “tweaks” that will help you to access the gifted songwriter that already exists within you.

START NOW!

Take action on these ideas now. Don’t wait. Do something with what you just learned immediately, so you start using it AUTOMATICALLY. Use these techniques every day, and soon you’ll find that you’re creating AMAZING music and lyrics at a level that you never thought possible for yourself.

And if you’re interested in getting the ultimate Songwriting training, than look out for my next few emails. I’m going to tell you how you can get access to the most powerful, cutting edge songwriting techniques that have ever been created.

Thanks for your time, and I’ll talk to you soon,

Geoff W