

EastCraft

Demo Recording Facility

Box 245 - Vass, NC 28394 - scarboro@ac.net

Demo Recording Sound Tracks Composing

• Guest Article #031

Song Writing - 2

By: Paul Roberts, JR III

Song Openings

The opening of a song is very important in as much as your first impressions are when meeting new people. The first few lines of a song should draw the listener into wanting to know more. You may ask, how do I do that? It's very easy! Put yourself in their place. Listen to your song as they would. If it doesn't excite you, odds are it won't excite any one else either. I would suggest that you watch your favorite movie. "Movie, you say" Yes! A movie. Not for the entertainment but for a lesson in arrangement of a story line. If it's your favorite movie then something about it attracted you to it. A song is just a short story with musical accompaniment. Study the movie and find out why a scene evokes the feelings you feel. You will find that a lot of the feelings in a movie are caused by the background music. The music is very important to your song. There will be more about this later.

The first verse should set the listener up for what is to follow. Song writing is like a guided tour. What the writer decides to tour is up to he or she but it must be interesting to the listener. The game is over if you lose the listeners attention before the song ends. This is where tenacity pays off. If your song loses your attention then rewrite. Make it more interesting.

A lot of writers find that they have a great chorus but an O.K. first verse. If the first verse doesn't capture the listener they won't be around to hear that great chorus. The answer here is to rewrite. Make the first verse better than the chorus. Do not use simple words just to fill up the melody. Make every word count. There has to be a reason for using a word. Simply filling up the melody with meaningless words won't do it. It's all right to use these words for a rough draft but afterwards, trim down everything that's not needed. Less is better than more. I try to stay away from I's, me's and my's as much as possible although, it is necessary sometimes.

The feeling your trying to evoke, with a song, should begin in the opening. The total emotion should rule the chorus. Don't expose the full emotion in the verse. Leave it to the chorus to finish what was started in the verse. The second verse should expose a different view or feeling. But this will depend upon the songs story. There will be more on this subject in later articles.

The Hook is exactly that, a hook. A fisherman never goes fishing without it. A song writer must have a hook hidden inside his song. The song it's self is the bait. Try to bait your listener with a good melody and story. Then when they least expect it..... hook'em. It can be as simple as a play on words. Listeners like surprises. This is where the bulk of creativity comes into play. Be creative. Give lots of thought about your songs subject and the audience that you intend to target. Figure out what will put a grin on the listeners face or jerk a tear from their eye. This can be learned by listening to others work (the radio) and studying that favorite movie.

Another often over looked point is the melody and the music. It is very important and is one of the things it takes to make a number one song. I will cover this subject in my next article. Happy Writing !

[<BACK](#)

[NEXT>](#)

Paul's next article will focus on the melody and music behind your lyrics.

[Demo Process](#)

[Referrals](#)

[Samples](#)

[Prices](#)

[Home](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact EastCraft](#)

Copyright,1999,Paul Roberts,Jr III & EastCraft

Web design by: [Henderson & Associates](#)