

Cover versions and their repurposing - or examples of how to use a cover version as a way to inspire a new song

Hiya folks, trust you're keeping well, safe and warm during this break from sessions in the practise rooms and studio. Try to make sure you're getting a bit of fresh air every day and remaining active.

Today we're talking cover versions and re-purposing them.

- **What is a cover version?**

In music and to a greater extent popular music a cover version - or cover for short - is a new performance or recording of a song made by someone other than the original writer-composer or artist.

- **Sometimes a cover can become more popular than the original. I'm sure you can think of many examples but here are a few to get you started**

1. Whitney Houston's 1992 version of "I Will Always Love You" which was originally released in 1974 by Dolly Parton.
2. Jimi Hendrix's 1968 version of 'All Along The Watchtower' which was originally released the year before in 1967 by Bob Dylan
3. Soft Cell's 1981 cover of 'Tainted Love' originally released in 1965 by the American soul singer Gloria Jones

In these examples the cover version greatly differs to the original.

This is because cover versions give a performer the ability to adapt a song or some music to their own style which easily allows them to change the genre of the song - editing and recreating it to their own taste or preference

- **Make a list of cover versions that you can remember or that interest you and for each cover version create two different lists with one column describing similarities and the other column describing differences between the versions.**

Cover versions can provide a brilliant springboard or starting point for writing your own songs.

- **Using the following vocal melody and/or lyric (bars 1 to 4) from Bob Marley and the Wailers 'Waiting In Vain' (released 1977) try and write a new song, chorus or verse. Please feel free to adapt and change it too.**

Original key: A \flat . To match original recording, use a capo, 1st fret.

$\text{♩} = 78$

1. I don't wan - na wait_ in vain_ for your love. I don't wan - na wait_ in vain_

for your love. From the ve - ry first time I (2.) It's been three years since I'm

It's not only lyrics from a cover version that can provide inspiration for a new song - instrumental lines can be just as useful.

- **Using the following electric guitar line (bars 4 and 5 only) from The White Stripes 'Seven Nation Army' (released 2003) try and write a new song, chorus or verse. Please feel free to adapt and change it too.**

Seven Nation Army
Bass & Electric White Stripes

♩ = 125

Electric Guitar *mf*

Electric Bass *mf*

Can't wait to hear what you've come up with once sessions start back up.
Take care,
Sam Wilkinson