

Friday Easy Jam with Joe Cribbin

Handout No.5 - 02-05-2020

Using names in Song writing

I hope this finds you all well. In this week's worksheet we will be looking at using names in songs. This worksheet is suitable for both lyricists and musicians. They are different tasks for you to try out to help develop your song writing.

There are lots of great songs using people's names, both men's and women's name's with men's name's being the most popular. The most popular name in pop music is not really a name at all more a term of endearment and that No.1 slot goes to the name 'Baby'. Other Common names include 'Mary' 'Joe' and 'John'. The names can appear in the title of the song or be mentioned in the song lyrics.

Here's a few examples below:

Songs with Women's names	Songs with Men's names
Mary Mary - Run DMC	Taylor Swift – Dear John
Christine – Siouxsie and the Banshees	Arnold Lane – Pink Floyd
Layla – Clapton	Happy Jack – The Who
See Emily Play – Pink Floyd	Abba – Fernando
Gloria – Them, Patti Smith	Hit the road Jack – Ray Charles
Bernadette – the Four tops	Louie louie – The Kinsmen
Victoria - The Kinks/ the Fall	Stan - Eminem
Eleanor Rigby – The Beatles	Jeremy – Pearl Jam
Long Tall Sally – Little Richard	Ben - Michael Jackson

Tasks

Try and think of 5 examples of songs containing Women's names in the title and write them down

Try and think of 5 examples of songs containing Men's names in the title and write them down

What do you think it is about these songs that makes them worthwhile or memorable? How often do you hear the name mentioned in the song?

From your list and the list above try substituting a different name and see if it still works then try singing it to yourself. So for example instead of 'Valerie' in the Amy Winehouse song, try singing 'Emily'. Does that still work? If so why or why not? What about Zebedee, would that work or just sound plain ridiculous, if so why?

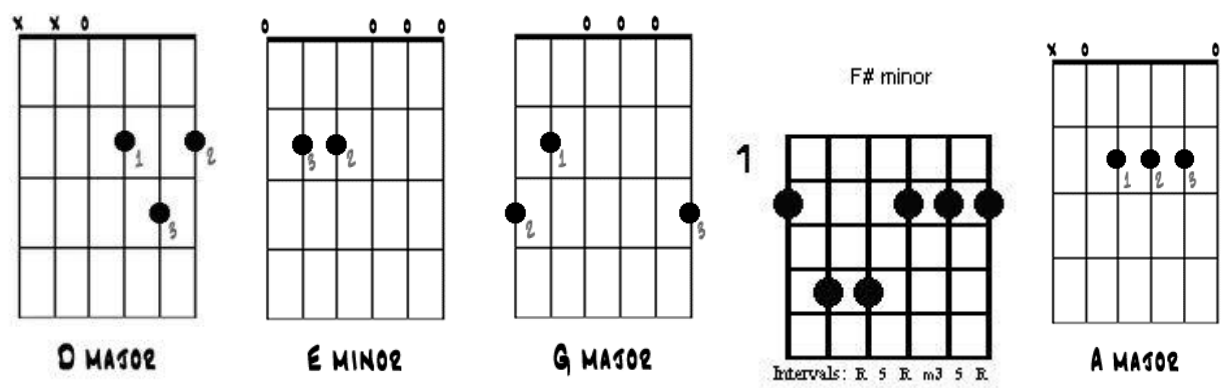
Try a gender swap by substituting a man's name for a song that is using a Woman's name and vice versa.

Write your own song with someone's name in the title, it doesn't have to be a real person it can just be imagined. Try and paint a picture of this character describing what it is about them that is interesting.

For an extension write about a host of characters. You don't have to have the name in the song title, you can drop the names anywhere you like an example would be Lou Reed's walk on the wild side which refers to characters such as 'Little Joe' and 'Holly from Miami F.L.A'

Try to play the song below 'Valerie'. For a more authentic sound use a capo on the 1st fret so that you will be playing in E flat which is the same as the recording. Also try using a D Major 7th chord and an E minor 7th Chord to sound closer to the recording. Have fun Enjoy.

Valerie for guitar



Intro

D / / / / | D / / / / | Em / / / / | Em / / / / |

Verse

D / / / / | D / / / / | Em / / / / | Em / / / / |

Well sometimes I go out by myself and I look across the water

D / / / / | D / / / / | Em / / / / | Em / / / / |

And I think of all the things, what you're doing and in my head I make a picture

G / / / / | F#m / / / / | G / / / / | F#m / / / / |

'cos since i've come on home , well my body's been a mess And i've missed your ginger hair and the way you like to dress

G / / / / | F#m / / / / | A / / / / | A / / / / |

Won't you come on over stop making a fool out of me Why won't you come on over

Chorus

D / / / / | D / / / / | Em / / / / | Em / / / / |

Valerie? Valerie?

Zebedee! why don't you come on over Zebedee?