

## Introducing Songwriting Concepts - Choruses

Hiya folks, hope you're keeping well, safe and have been enjoying the sunny weather during this break from sessions in the practise rooms and studio. As ever, try to make sure you're getting a bit of fresh air every day and remaining active - Core Sports have many excellent online and postal lessons for you to use :-)

Today we're talking about concepts within songwriting that you should definitely familiarise yourself with - namely choruses.

- **What is a chorus?**

Simply put, a chorus is the part of a song that appears or happens after each verse. However, the chorus part of a song works in more specific and definitive ways that we'll go in to in this handout.

- **The lyrics contained within a chorus are repetitive**

This use of repetition typically aids in defining the overall sentiment behind the lyrics in the song.

Typically a chorus will contain this memorable section of lyrics sung to a melody, or tune, that sticks in your head and can be recalled easily.

- **Make a list of songs that you can easily remember the lyrics too - under the title of each song write the lyric you can most easily recall**

In many cases a song will be named after a section of lyrics that are in the chorus. You may find that many of the lyrics that you've written under the song title will be found somewhere in the chorus.

- **Try to think of any songs you can remember the lyrics or chorus too but not the name. Write down the lyrics and see if they help you recall the song title.**

Furthermore - these short passages of music can become seemingly lodged in our minds - continually repeating after we are no longer listening to the song..

These phenomena are known as an Earworm.

- **In many situations the chorus of a song is said to contain a 'Hook'**

In this case a hook can be defined as a tune, melody or piece of music that seemingly hooks itself inside your mind - making it hard to forget. Within this context you can describe the chorus as being 'Hooky'.

Think of the list of songs you have written above - those lyrical and melodic sections have managed to hook themselves in your memory so that without hearing the song you can still remember how it goes.

- **It's almost universally common that the chorus part of a song will be shorter than the verse**

A chorus will also not change it's lyrics or melody no matter where it appears in a piece of music - this aids in the implementing of hooks - it's almost like hitting a chorus is reaching the part of a song you recognise as home.

It contains all the familiar features, furniture and comforts (respectively) that you expect to be there.

- Using the following vocal melody and/or lyric (bars 1 to 8) from Bill Withers song 'Ain't No Sunshine' try and write a new chorus. Please feel free to adapt and change it too.

1. Ain't no sun - shine when she's gone.  
 (2.) gone.  
 (3.) gone,

Am7 Em7

It's not warm when she's a way.  
 Won - der if she's gone to stay.  
 on - ly dark - ness ev - 'ry day.

Am7 Em7

Ain't no sun - shine when she's gone, and she's al - ways gone too  
 Ain't no sun - shine when she's gone, and this house just ain't no  
 Ain't no sun - shine when she's gone, and this house just ain't no

Dm7 Am7 Em7 To Coda

long an - y - time she goes a - way.  
 home an - y - time she goes a - way.  
 home an - y - time she goes a - way.

I really look forward to hearing what you've come up with when sessions start back.

Take care,  
 Sam