

Introducing Songwriting Concepts - Verses

Hiya folks, hope you're keeping well, safe and have been keeping warm and dry over the last week during break from sessions in the practise rooms and studio. Make sure you're getting a bit of fresh air every day and remaining active - Core Sports have many excellent online and postal lessons to help you with this.

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

- **What is a verse?**

In a song the verse is a section of music and lyrics that typically occurs 2 or 3 times throughout the piece as a whole. Within songwriting, a verse can typically be seen to have several attributes that are common amongst western popular music.

- **Normally the chords and melody will remain the same for each verse but the content of the lyrics will change**

This helps to give the song a sense of continuity while also being able to further the narrative in the lyrics.

- **Make a short list of songs you like - just 2 or 3 - and write down as many of the lyrics you can remember for each that don't appear in the chorus**

You might find that these lyrics are harder to recall - this is quite normal - and is one of the characteristic elements of a verse.

You can look at verses as being quite transient - propelling and progressing the story of the lyrics and song forward without containing the 'hooks' that a chorus does.

- **Using images and details verses will describe what is going on in the narrative of the song**

The use of simile and metaphors can be effective in describing everyday events in a fresh or unexpected way.

- **Make a list of of emotions and/or feelings you can find in a song you like - for each emotion try to think of an everyday object that reminds you of that emotion**

These are the building blocks of how metaphors can be used within lyrics.

- **In most songs the verses are longer than the choruses**

Typically you'll find that they're exactly double the length - for instance - where a song's chorus may last for 8 bars of music in that same song you would normally expect the verse to last for 16 bars.

- **Count the bars in the first and second verses and choruses (below) of The Beatles song 'Let It Be' - what does this show you?**

- **Similarly - listen to a song that you like and count the bars in the verses and choruses - what does this show you?**

Verse:

When I find myself in times of trouble
Mother Mary comes to me
Speaking words of wisdom
Let it be

And in my hour of darkness
She is standing right in front of me
Speaking words of wisdom
Let it be

Chorus:

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Whisper words of wisdom
Let it be

Verse:

And when the broken-hearted people
Living in the world agree
There will be an answer
Let it be

For though they may be parted there is
Still a chance that they will see
There will be an answer
Let it be

Chorus:

Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be
Yeah, there will be an answer
Let it be

- **It's important to remember that although the chorus or 'hook' of a song is typically what arouses most interest from the listener - in terms of story telling, narrative and context it's actually the verses that do a lot of the heavy lifting**

Take care of yourselves and see you back at Core Arts in the near future :-)
Sam

