

WHAT IS IT?

Songwriting is the ability to use music and words to express yourself. It is both an art and a craft ('inspiration and perspiration') – a skill that lets you create something out of nothing.

Songwriters learn from experience and from influence.

Experience comes from creating music again and again, each new attempt responding to the last.

Influence comes from discovering how other peoples' music works and incorporating those techniques in our own creative work.

A song can touch us emotionally and rally us to a cause; we can lose ourselves in a song and let it change our mood or our view of the world. Most importantly, though, songs remind us of who we are and where we belong.

WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS?

The creation of music is the lifeblood of the music industry. Without original music being generated, the industry would stagnate. As a career to pursue, writing music can be both the most rewarding and most frustrating of jobs.

Music is used to express what words alone fail to say and is without doubt the most universal language.

Some people think you need a special gift to write songs, but raw talent can only get you so far. Just like playing an instrument or performing on stage you can improve your songwriting skills - and hence your chances of making a living from music - with practice and perseverance.