

You've got the music in you... Song writing for everyone! *Specialty Track*

AUTHOR(S):	Pesach Stadlin
TOPIC (S)	Music, Community building
SUMMARY	In this specialty track, we will learn techniques to unlock and reveal the hidden songs inside of us so that we can add new awesome meaningful songs to our camps. We will record our new songs and there will be lots of opportunities for collaboration.
GOALS:	Participants will feel empowered to jump into the rivers of creativity and experiment with making beauty. They will also learn many techniques in song craft and have new recorded songs to share with Cornerstone and beyond.
AUDIENCE:	Any age, Max 26 participants
TIMING:	Specialty Track - 75
APPENDICES:	
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Recording device is a must. Garage band is a bonus. Acapella App for iPhones would be great.
SET-UP DETAILS:	

SESSION TIMELINE

Please provide a very brief listing of the sections of your program and their timing

Day 1

0-20“ Welcome to advanced singing in the shower”

- Intros! Name favorite song? What song title would you give this chapter of your life?

20-30 Changing your story (“I am not an artist..”)

- Power of stories...Life raft story
- “I am a songwriter!”

30-45 What makes a great song? (Questions to group and then discussion and my ideas)

45-60 Learn different techniques for songwriting 101 (do as many as I can in the time slot. Will do the rest on day 2)

- Opening line of songs! (I will have a pre-made video of awesome song beginnings)
- Being free
- Being loose and Taking chances
- Don't think too much. Edit later.
- Each note bows to the next note

60-70 Melody making exercises:

- Listen to a beat and make melodies for 3 minutes straight.

70-75

- Introduce Acapela collaboration app
- We will begin song writing!
- Homework: Play and experiment with new melodies. Start crafting a new song.

Day 2

0-15 Share rough drafts or lines from our songs with one another

- Feedback and ideas

15-20 Opportunity for collaborations

20-35 Songs Crafting 201

- Different song writing processes. (melody first?)
- Finding the hook
- Wordless melodies
- Musical contrast
- Telling a story
- Layering sound and adding instrumentation

35-45 Recording 101

45-50 Harmony 101 Play harmony game with recording device

50-70 Work time! I will bop around and talk with the songwriters as everyone will be working on their song.

70-75 Homework: Freestyle exercise

- Homework: recording your song!

Day 3

0-15 Share and feedback about song writing process

15-60 Recital party

60-70 Start writing our second song!

70-75 Feedback and take homes and goodbye!

SESSION OUTLINE:

Please provide a DETAILED step-by-step breakdown of how to run this program based on the timing above

Day 1

- 0-20“ **Welcome** to advanced singing in the shower”
My intro: I will introduce myself, tell them my brief bio and what I love about music.
Their intro: I will ask them their name, where they are from, name their favorite song and what song title would you give this chapter of your life? I will post these questions in the chat for them to see.
- 20-30 We will discuss the power and importance of **changing your story**. If you tell yourself “I am not an artist” it is much less likely that you will make great (or any) art. Sometimes people get stuck in their stories. Jewish holidays ask us to change our stories. Raise your hand if you have ever changed your story? Imagine if when you were one years old and tried to walk and talk and failed, if you had made up your mind that you were not a walker or a talker... Imagine if the first time Jimi Hendrix tried and failed to play a guitar chord he made up his mind that he was not a guitar player.
- **Power of stories**...Life raft story from Buckminster Fuller’s “operating manual for spaceship earth” If you are in a shipwreck and all the boats are gone, a piano top buoyant enough to keep you afloat that comes along makes a fortuitous life preserver. But this is not to say that the best way to design a life preserver is in the form of a piano top. **I think that we are clinging to a great many piano tops in accepting yesterday’s fortuitous contrivings as constituting the only means for solving a given problem.**
- Invitation for a **new story**: “I am a songwriter!”
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- 30-45 Open up a group conversation: **What makes a great song?** (Questions to group and then discussion and my ideas)
- 45-60 **Songwriting 101**
Here I will give over several techniques for songwriting. **Songwriting 101**. I will do as many as I can in the time slot. Any that do not get taught in the given time will be given over on day two.
Techniques:
-**Opening line of songs!** The first line of a song is super important! Most people choose if they are going to listen to a song based on the first five seconds. Here is a video of some great song openings:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qaJ5V6oyeaa9eFHnvmTRMkyE1rdjNDG_/view?usp=sharing
-**Being free.** Are you writing a song from your head or from your heart?
-**Being loose and Taking chances.** People who get creative blocks often are blocked because they take themselves too seriously. Children are often always walking around singing. Tap into your inner playful child and write from there.
-**Don't think too much. Move the pen and Edit later.** Just get started! Make make make and edit later. If you make make make and get one line that you love or one riff that opens your heart it will be a great success. It is good to sit around with a voice memo recording device while you are playing/experimenting with words and melodies. Listen and edit later.
-**Each note bows to the next note.** When making a melody, try to take the melody to unexpected places. A great melody is often both unexpected yet familiar.
- 60-70
Melody making exercises:
I will play a simple beat in the background. Participants will mute their mics, listen to the beat and make up melodies for 3 minutes straight. The one rule is don't stop singing! Put on a recording device while doing this. Listen to the recording later and see if you found a nice hook.
- 70-75
- **Introduce Acapela collaboration app.** Ask participants if anyone wants to start making collaborations.
Homework: Play and experiment with new melodies. Start crafting a new song.

Day 2

- 0-20
Participants will be invited to **share rough drafts** or lines from the songs they are working on with one another. During this time they can also ask for help or share opportunities for collaboration.
- 20-35
- **Songs Crafting 201** During this time we will go over more ideas for how to make great songs.
-Different **song writing processes**. melody first? re-writing a premade song. Take lyrics from the Torah or from a poem, sing into recording devices.

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-**Finding the hook.** When you are improvising and playing with song, notice if a phrase resonates with. If so, sing it a few times and if you like it record it. Experiment with taking the melody in different directions.

-**Wordless melodies.** Teach the power of the niggun. Play a quick game where they have to make up a new niggun in 2 minutes! Just do it!

-**Musical contrast, Telling a story** It is nice when a song can take us on a journey. It is nice when a song has different colors and different feels to it in different places. Maybe the verses are in a minor key but the chorus is a major and happy sound. Also sometimes the words of a song can take us on a journey.

-**Verses, chorus and bridge** This is a very classic way to make a song

- 35-45
- **Recording 101**
-**Layering sound** and adding instrumentation. Give a live short example of how easy it is to layer sound on an editing program. Key elements are often: Melody, backing sound (guitar or piano), drum, bass and sometimes a lead instrument for solos.
- 45-50
- **Harmony 101**
-Play harmony game with recording device. Record yourself singing a simple song. Listen to it and sing harmony with yourself.
- 50-70
- **Work time!** I will make separate break out rooms for each individual student. I will bop around from room to room and talk with the songwriters as everyone will be working on their song.
- 70-75
- **Homework: Freestyle exercise** Listen to a beat from youtube and freestyle for 5 minutes.
- **Homework: recording your song!** Put some finishing touches on your song and have something ready to share for tomorrow! Bonus if they record their song and make a little music video! Invite participants to wear festive silly clothing to day 3's music share!

Day 3

- 0-15
- Participants will **share and give feedback** about the song writing process.
- 15-60
- **Recital part.** Participants will get to share their song! Some will be live singing and some will be pre recorded. Whoever is presenting will have their video pinned. If there is time the presenter could field a few questions from the audience about their song. This event should have the energy of a great celebration!!!!
- 60-70

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Start writing our second song! We want to keep the energy of song writing moving! The last few minutes of class will be devoted to getting the ball rolling on their second song for them to finish on their own.

- 70-75 **Feedback and take homes and goodbye!**

We will have a go around where participants can share what they are taking home with them.

BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP & SHIFTING TO IN PERSON:

Use this space to recommend possible adaptations, modifications, creative twists, or other suggestions.