

Songwriter's Song Evaluation

- Evaluator Guidelines -

Song evaluation is quite subjective in nature. Many industry professionals have rejected songs that became #1 hits. Relax and listen to the song while reading the lyric sheet. Consider the items below. You may have a similar critique sheet to fill out or feel free to write comments directly on the lyric sheet as well as an evaluation form. The notes below are not intended to be an evaluation form, but rather things to consider when critiquing a song.

Song Title

- Is the title obvious? After listening to the song once, I knew what the song title was (Would a listener know what song to request or look for on line?).
- Title grabs my attention. Makes me want to hear the song. It's catchy (Catchy, unusual, unique, neat play on words, etc...)
- Title expresses an emotion that fits the song. (lighthearted, love, etc...)
- Title fits the song both lyrically and melodically. Good Prosody.
- Title has 8 or less words. (Note: max of 6 or less is believed to be best.)
- Lyrics point to and support the title (if not, comment below)
- The title sings well
- Title Comments: (Optional)

Song Structure

- Song structure (V=verse, C=Chorus, B=Bridge) – supportive and not distracting
- If song starts with the chorus it did not bore the listener, length was appropriate, and placing the chorus first makes the song stronger.
- Verses have same melody with new Lyrics. Melody may vary slightly.
- Verse has 4,6, or 8 lines with a max of 16bars per verse.
- Verses tell the story and set the emotional tone.
- The number of verses before and after the chorus feels appropriate. 2 maybe needed to setup the story before the chorus. 2 maybe need to end the story before the chorus.
- Melodically the chorus changes enough from verses
- Chorus is easy to remember
- The chorus summarizes the idea of the song and showcases the title.
- Chorus is easy to sing
- Chorus can be sung without any verses and still make sense (optional)
- Chorus has the title at least once.
- Instrumental solos
 - If has Instrumental solo it is 8 bars or less.

- Instrumental intro for a demo is 4-8 bars or less.
 - If the instrumental is in the demo, then it is an integral part of the song.
 - Instrumental solo follows a chorus or a bridge.
- Structure Comment: (Optional)

Song Lyrics

- Lyrics express one message.
- The song's story can be identified even if you are not focusing on the song.
- Songs has one predominate message
- Song expressed:
 - One emotion throughout the song.
 - Imagery was used to express the emotion.
 - Lyrics express one “tone” throughout (serious, light hearted, etc...)
- A consistent or appropriate use of tense (present, past, future) is used.
- The song has a strong opening. The first several lines of lyrics & melody caught my attention and was exceptional.
- The lyrics advance the story line logically.
- Imagery is used to paint the story.
- Lyrics come from the heart
- Lyrics have universal appeal vs targeted audience
- Lyrics have an unique phrase or hook.
- People can relate to the story and imagery
- Words or phrases are repeated appropriately.
- Rhyming scheme is appropriate. Not too predictable or too monotonous.
- List any line or phrase that is weak or needs work.
- Lyrics Comment: (Optional)

Song Melody

- The melody of the verse, chorus, and bridge (if used) vary enough to be identified
- Bridge, if used, adds to song
- Is the melody:
 - memorable.
 - unique.
 - catchy (hooky)
 - building to a special moment with a chord or note.
 - Able to can standalone without the lyrics and be memorable (ear worm).
 - easy to remember and sing.
 - Including a signature lick (instrumental hook)
 - natural feeling
 - repeated appropriately.

- including short catchy phrases.
- Melody Comment: (Optional)

Song Length

- Length is ≥ 2 min and ≤ 4 min (general guideline)
- Length feels appropriate (consider type and genre)
- Length Comment: (Optional)

Song Idea

- The song' idea has universal appeal (targeting ok, as long as this is known and considered).
- The song's idea has a fresh approach to something ...
- Song idea showcases the title.
- There is a lyric hook that matches the song idea.
- The song idea conveyed with adequate imagery
- The listener can believe the singer
- The song develops the idea
- The verses lead the story into the chorus
- Idea Comment: (Optional)

Song Market Potential

- In what genre would this song have market potential?

- Market potential as is: Strong, Average, Fair
- Market Comment: (Optional)

Other General Comments: