



THE SONG METHOD

A Research Initiative Exploring Contemporary Songwriting Practice

The Song Method is a contemporary songwriting research platform.
We explore whether stronger creative tools can help writers create stronger songs,
more intentionally, more confidently, and more consistently.



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RESEARCH CONTEXT:

- **International songwriting camps** across Scandinavia, the UK, the US, and Korea commonly integrate collaborative co-writing, mentorship, and structured creative-development practices.
- While Australia has produced internationally successful songwriters and artists, there appear to be **fewer research-informed** collaborative songwriting environments focused on experimentation, reflective practice, and methodology development.
- Many **Australian songwriters**, producers, and artists **often seek professional opportunities overseas** in order to access larger collaborative networks, publishing opportunities, and internationally connected songwriting environments.
- Existing songwriting camps often prioritise networking and content creation, **leaving opportunities to further investigate** how structured guidance, reflective discussion, and creative experimentation may influence songwriting outcomes.
- **The Song Method emerged** from both personal songwriting experience and ongoing research into **contemporary songwriting methodologies, collaborative creativity, and creative practice research.**
- **The initiative aims to explore** how collaborative songwriting environments, micro-lessons, and reflective creative practice may support the development of more intuitive and adaptable songwriters



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SELECTED RESEARCH QUESTION:

Can structured songwriting methodologies contribute to the development of more intuitive songwriters?

Idea Generation / Creativity:

How do structured idea-generation methodologies influence songwriting creativity and workflow efficiency?

Collaboration / Group Dynamics:

How do mentorship and peer feedback affect songwriting experimentation and refinement?

Reflective Practice / Creative Psychology:

Can reflective creative practice improve songwriting self-awareness and creative adaptability?

Contemporary Commercial Practice:

How do contemporary commercial songwriting practices differ from traditional songwriting education models?

Further investigation is needed into how collaborative songwriting environments, reflective practice, and structured creative methodologies influence contemporary songwriting development.



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RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

- **Investigate contemporary songwriting methodologies** through collaborative experimentation, reflective creative practice, and evidence-informed analysis of songwriting processes and outcomes.
- **Explore** how idea-generation systems, melodic structure, improvisation, collaboration, and production-led workflows influence creativity, artistic development, and songwriting intuition.
- **Develop and test** structured songwriting frameworks incorporating freewriting, object writing, hook-first methodologies, reflective discussion, and collaborative co-writing practices.
- **Examine** how reflective creative practice and collaborative songwriting environments contribute to artistic confidence, creative identity, and intuitive songwriting development.
- Investigate how contemporary commercial **songwriting workflows differ** from traditional songwriting **education.**
- **Document participant reflection,** collaborative workflow experiences, and songwriting outcomes to support ongoing **creative-practice research and methodology development.**
- **Develop research-informed educational resources** integrating reflective practice, contemporary songwriting methodologies, and collaborative creative experimentation.

Bridging contemporary music industry practice, reflective creative research, and collaborative songwriting education.



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RESEARCH METHODS:

Collaborative Songwriting Workshops: Structured co-writing environments used to explore songwriting workflow, idea-generation systems, collaborative creativity, and reflective creative practice.

Reflective Practice & Participant Feedback: Participants document creative experiences, workflow observations, and reflections on songwriting methodologies, collaboration, and artistic development.

Observational & Workflow Analysis: Analysis of collaborative interaction, creative decision-making, lyrical development, melodic structure, and songwriting outcomes across workshop environments.

Idea-Generation Experimentation

Interviews & Questionnaires

Comparative Industry Research

Documentation & Reflective Evaluation



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THE WORKFLOW

MICRO LESSONS



IDEA GENERATION



CO-WRITING GROUPS



DEMO DEVELOPMENT



REFLECTIVE DISCUSSION



SHOWCASE & FEEDBACK



RESEARCH EVALUATION

FOCUS AREAS

The Collaborative writing experience
Hook Writing & Melodic Maths
Lyric Writing & Idea Generation
Contemporary Production Techniques
Improvisation & Intuitive Creativity
Genre Blending
K-Pop Songwriting
Sync Writing
Scandinavian Songwriting Approaches
Artist Development

Combining creative-practice research, reflective analysis, and collaborative experimentation to investigate contemporary songwriting development methodologies.



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THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION

- **Reflective creative practice** forms the foundation of The Song Method's research and workshop design.
- Contemporary songwriting methodologies are explored through practical experimentation, collaborative songwriting activity, and **creative evaluation**.
- Research draws upon **analytical study of commercial songwriting methodologies** associated with writers and producers such as **Max Martin**, particularly hook-focused composition, melodic repetition systems, topline architecture, and production-led songwriting workflows.
- **K-pop songwriting** analysis informs exploration of **genre hybridity**, rhythmic vocal delivery, sectional contrast, collaborative production systems, and **globally connected** contemporary pop songwriting practices.
- Workshops integrate structured **idea-generation systems** including freewriting, object writing, improvisation, melodic development frameworks, and collaborative creativity exercises
- The project investigates how structure, repetition, collaboration, emotional communication, and workflow influence **songwriting outcomes** and creative development.
- Educational frameworks are informed by pedagogy, creative psychology, reflective discussion, and contemporary music industry practice
- Ongoing research documentation and participant reflection contribute toward **evolving songwriting development** methodologies and educational resources

The project combines collaborative songwriting practice with research-informed creative experimentation to explore alternative approaches to contemporary songwriting development.



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RESEARCH & SUPPORTING MATERIALS

All supporting research materials and portfolio links are accessible via the QR code.

Max Martin Methodology - Research Paper

Melodic Maths & Hook Construction - Research Paper

Integrating Structured Idea-Generation Techniques - Research Paper

Developing Stronger Hooks in Contemporary Pop and R&B Songwriting - Research Paper

Soundcloud - Max Martin Methodology Research Demos

Soundcloud - Songwriting Idea-Generation Sketches

Presentation - Developing a K-Pop Songwriting Portfolio

Bridging reflective creative research with contemporary songwriting practice.





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WHO WE ARE



SARAH MANOVSKI

- Multi-Platinum Australian songwriter, artist, music educator, and researcher
- Nearly two decades of experience across commercial music, higher education, artist development, and creative research
- International songwriting, recording, and collaborative creative practice experience across the UK and Europe
- Higher education teaching experience across undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional music programs in London.
- She has authored Masters and Bachelors Degree Modules specialising in contemporary songwriting, advanced harmony, music theory, artist development, piano, and vocal performance.
- International chart success, global radio play, television sync placements, releases accumulating hundreds of millions of streams
- Currently completing a Bachelor of Music (Honours) at the University of West London with planned PhD research in Songwriting and Contemporary Music Practice from 2027

STEVEN MANOVSKI

- Multi-Platinum Australian songwriter, producer, audio engineer, multi-instrumentalist, and studio owner
- More than 22 years of international music industry experience
 - Songwriting and production credits contributing to billions of streams and global chart success
 - Grammy Award nominated songwriter
 - Extensive experience across commercial pop, electronic, K-pop, rock, country, sync, and contemporary production
 - Collaborated with internationally recognised artists including Meghan Trainor, Machine Gun Kelly, Travis Barker, Sigala, MNEK, Nile Rodgers, David Guetta, John Newman, Tiësto, Ella Eyre, and TXT
 - Professional expertise in vocal production, audio engineering, sound design, live performance, and songwriting development
- Built and operated professional recording studios in London & Sydney
- Combines commercial songwriting insight, technical production expertise, and collaborative creative practice



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RESEARCH APPLICATIONS & COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

- Collaborative songwriting research initiatives with organisations including APRA AMCOS and MusicSA.
- Potential partnerships with universities, tertiary music institutions, and contemporary music education programs exploring collaborative songwriting methodologies and reflective creative practice.
- Creative-practice workshop investigations examining idea-generation systems, collaborative songwriting workflows, and contemporary songwriting pedagogy.
- Research collaboration opportunities involving songwriters, producers, artists, recording studios, and songwriting networks.
- Community and youth-engagement initiatives exploring songwriting as a tool for creative confidence, artistic identity development, and collaborative learning.
- Festival-based panel discussions, collaborative songwriting experiments, and reflective creative-practice sessions.
- Online collaborative songwriting environments supporting cross-cultural creative interaction and international co-writing research.
- Development of research-informed educational resources integrating contemporary songwriting methodologies, reflective practice, and collaborative creativity.
- Potential expansion into podcasts, digital research documentation, and online educational content focused on songwriting methodology and creative process research.

Exploring collaborative connections between contemporary songwriting practice, reflective creative research, and music education.



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FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Collaborative Songwriting Environments: Further investigation into structured co-writing environments exploring collaboration, workflow experimentation, and contemporary songwriting methodologies.

Mentorship & Reflective Creative Practice: Research-informed mentorship frameworks supporting artistic identity development, reflective discussion, and collaborative creative experimentation.

Online Collaborative Research: Exploration of digitally connected songwriting environments supporting cross-cultural collaboration and international creative interaction.

Ongoing Creative-Practice Research: Continued investigation into songwriting methodologies, idea-generation systems, collaborative creativity, and reflective creative practice.

Educational & Research Partnerships: Potential collaboration with universities, music organisations, schools, and industry professionals investigating contemporary songwriting development approaches.

Research Documentation & Educational Media: Development of podcasts, digital research documentation, reflective resources, and educational content exploring songwriting process and methodology research.



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Collaborative Songwriting. Creative Development. Contemporary Music Practice