

Songwriting Snippet #8

Assignment #8

Song #2 Brainstorming Exercise: What is Beauty?

Part 1: *Circling power words to build a central theme and subsequent themes*

On one sheet of paper, answer the following questions:

- 1) What *Type* of song did you choose for the theme “Beauty Is?”
- 2) What *angle* do you intend to use to share the perspective of your particular song Type with the listener (See the example section of the Song Assignment handout for ideas)?
- 3) Now that you have chosen the Type of song you will write, what is the Theme of the song? Summarize the Theme in one phrase, line, or a Title.
- 4) Write your Title/Theme in the middle of the page; draw a circle/bubble around it.
- 5) Next, write out any words, phrases or themes that relate to your main theme, that come to mind. List them on a separate piece of paper.
- 6) Now organize your list of additional words into sub-themes, creating specific categories and groups for them by theme.
- 7) Draw lines expanding outward from the central bubble, and link them to your new sub-themes. Try to organize the position of your bubbles in terms of the logical flow of your sub-themes and words. This is a great way to brainstorm a concept or Theme!

Part 2: *Choose a related-Metaphor; build power words from Part 1 into your song’s story-line*

On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions:

- 1) Choose a *Metaphor* for your main Theme (central bubble on your first paper).
- 2) Next, choose a word or phrase that represents an emotional connection to, or motivation for your Metaphor word.
- 3) Now choose a character for the story-line of the song; If your song will have less of a story, try to choose a narrator for the song.
- 4) Choose a few components for the story-line. Specifically outline at least one conflict and one resolution for the song.
- 5) Now write an outline of your song’s Sections, with the parts of the Story (sequence of events) that will comprise the content in each Section.
- 6) Now go back to your first piece of paper. Try to incorporate your brainstorming/ power words *back into* your story-line. Use the categories and sub-themes you have created to build your songs Sections, based on the content you have brainstormed. Choose the strongest thoughts and words, grouping them with the strongest continuity of Theme.