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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Love songs on the fly

No gift? No problem! A hastily written romantic ballad will win over your significant other

It's Valentine's Day and love is in the air! It's when couples surprise each other with gifts to show their love for one another.

But what if you don't have money to buy a gift? Think about the time you saw that movie or TV show or book where the main character wrote a love song for their significant other. You should do that.

But where to start? How is a love song written? Why do you keep asking questions? You're in luck: We'll answer all of those questions in our step-by-step guide on how to write that perfect love song for your romantic partner. You'll be pitching woo in no time. — Chandler Roberts

Rules

AUBREY GOINGS | SOPHOMORE

Each month, a student selected at random shares what's on their playlist, and plays it on shuffle. What follows is a conversation about their song selection.

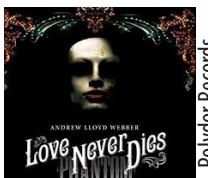
About the shuffler: Aubrey Goings is a Girl Scout, choir performer, and percussionist for the Branham Royal Alliance who loves musical theater. She has a very broad taste in music, liking most things she hears on the radio. However, most of the music on her playlist is never played on the radio because she also enjoys music outside of the usual genres. Her main playlist is an ode to her past experiences involving her friends and family, allowing her to look back on her memories.



Walt Disney Co.

Anna Kendrick: "On the Steps of the Palace" from the "Into the Woods" soundtrack
Aubrey Goings: I watch this movie a lot with my friend. Our parents were best friends, so we've grown up together. We've done everything together like go Disneyland trips together and we've gone skiing. We love this song and sing it all the time, and it reminds me of how much fun we have together.

The Eagle and the Child: "Healing Hope"
AG: This was from a camp I went to, Hume Lake, and it was one of my favorite songs there from the band. It allows you to see so much of your world. The song itself is very energetic, and it lets you be involved. It allows you to have a new mindset.



Polydor Records

Andrew Lloyd Webber: "Prologue- Love Never Dies"
AG: This is from "Love Never Dies," which is the sequel to "Phantom of the Opera." It paints the picture of the play, so when you listen to it, it's like you're watching the play again.



Verve

Kristin Chenoweth, Sean McCourt, Cristy Candler, and Jan Neuberger: "No One Mourns the Wicked" — Wicked Original Broadway Cast Recording
AG: I watched this with my mom, and I'll always remember the time we had there. We didn't have that great of seats because we thought we were going to be late, but it was actually pretty good. It was a really nice experience because I got to enjoy it with my mom, and it was our first time seeing it together.

Andrew Lloyd Webber: "Devil Take the Hindmost"
AG: It's interesting because it shows the contradicting ideas throughout the play and the different characters and the whole conflict throughout the story.

"Finale" — "Into the Woods" motion picture soundtrack
AG: It wraps up the story of the play, and it's like you're watching the play as you're listening to it. — Katelyn Lowpensky



Recognize* BY CHAD ROBERTS



Verse 1

I WAS TRYING JUST TO FLY BY
 I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD BE THE GUY
 NOW EVERYTHING I DO IS FOR YOU
 JUST WISH YOU WOULD DO THE SAME TOO
 WE PLAY EACH DAY BUT IT'S SO HARD
 TO HIDE THESE FEELINGS, I'M CAUGHT OFF GUARD
 DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO SAY IT
 SO MAYBE ALL THAT I CAN DO IS PLAY IT

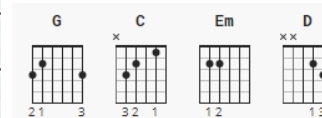
Step 1: Get an instrument

Don't worry, you don't have to have any idea of how to play it, but without you will sound/look silly. It's up to you which instrument you pick, but it must be something that can play chords, like a guitar or a piano. (It doesn't matter which instrument. You could show up with an accordion and it would likely work the same.)



Step 2: Write the melody

This task sounds scary, but I swear it's easy. There are only four chords you need to know: G, C, E and D. This is really all you need to write any pop song; the difference is in the pattern you use. Experiment with the order of chords, and how fast or slow you want them to be played. The slower it is played, the more passionate it will seem. See "All Of Me" by John Legend



Chorus

YOU'RE THE ONE
 LETS HAVE SOME FUN
 WE CAN DANCE TILL THE SUN WILL RTSE
 ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT
 THIS FEELS SO RIGHT
 I JUST WISH THAT YOU WOULD RECOGNIZE...

Step 3: The chorus

Now it gets fun. Start with the chorus. This has to be repetitive and catchy, and will probably be the easiest but most important part, since you will repeat it like four times (or maybe 40 times like "Na, na, na, nananana" from The Beatles' "Hey Jude").

The chorus is your expression of love. Lyrics are usually specific enough so the subject will know it's about them, but broad enough so that anyone listening can believe it's about them, too.

Verse 2

WE'RE HANGING OUT BUT I FEEL ALONE
 BECAUSE I KNOW THAT YOU AREN'T WITHIN MY ZONE
 I NEVER CARED TILL WE BOTH MET
 AND NOW I'M TRYING TO SEE WHAT I CAN GET
 LOOK CONFIDENT BUT FEEL UNPREPARED
 DOING SOMETHING I WOULD NEVER HAVE DARED
 I KNOW ITS HARD BUT PLEASE TAKE A CHANCE
 JUST LET ME HAVE THIS ONE DANCE? (CUZ...)
 (CHORUS)

Step 4: The verses

You only need to write two verses. These are slightly longer than the chorus and require more thought. The verses tell a story about the subject: how you met them, or how you fell in love and want to spend the rest of your life with this person. They also say nothing at the same time. Again, lyrics are broad enough to be about anyone. Talk about basic experiences like going out to eat, falling asleep together or, if you want to get more modern, how you met online and FaceTimed until midnight.*see below for inspiration

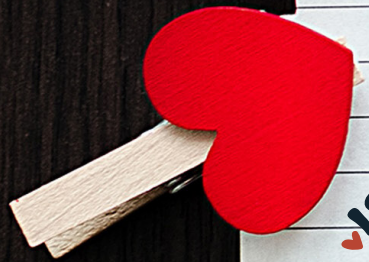
Bridge

(INSTRUMENTAL BITS AND BOBS)
 (CHORUSX2)
 RECOGNIZE X 4

Step 5: Putting it all together

Love songs have a certain structure they to follow. It usually goes verse 1, chorus, verse 2, chorus, some kind of bridge or instrumental break, and then two more choruses, becoming more intense the second time. The breakdown is super simple. There're a couple ways to do it. You could scat like Jason Mraz or just reuse lyrics from the chorus like almost everyone else.

*A SONGWRITTEN IN 30 MINUTES. IF I CAN DO IT, YOU CAN, TOO!



Be a lyrics master: WORDS THAT RHYME WITH...

Love	Heart	Branham	You	Kiss
DOVE	PART	BAM	BLUE	MISS
ABOVE	ART	FAM	FLEW	HISS
OF	SMART	DAMN	TRUE	BLISS
GLOVE	CART	DENIM*	NEW	ABYSS
SHOVE	START	RANDOM	VIEW	KATNISS
ENOUGH	CHART	LAMB	DO	
	WART	*CLOSE	THROUGH	
			WHO?	

- ### Shared experiences
- DANCING UNDER THE MOONLIGHT
 - GOING BOWLING TOGETHER
 - TEXTING DURING CLASS
 - FACETIMING INSTEAD OF HOMEWORK
 - GETTING FOOD POISONING AT THAT BUFFET
 - SWIPING RIGHT ON EACH OTHER'S PROFILES
 - FINDING THE PERFECT SNAPCHAT FILTER THAT EXPRESSES OUR LOVE