



# Song Inspiration

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# Song Inspiration

Three ideas for songwriting inspiration:

- Songs of the Elements
- Messed Up Clichés
- Make A Rule Then Break It



# Songs of the Elements

- ▶ Les Elements - Jean-Féry Rebel (1737)
- ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPPZ7uAewW0>
  - ▶ In 'Les Elements' by Jean-Féry Rebel, the elements are represented musically in fairly straightforward ways:
    - ▶ Earth by slurred bass notes
    - ▶ Water by ascending and descending flutes
    - ▶ Air by long sustained notes at the piccolos that conclude with trills
    - ▶ Fire by virtuoso violin passages



# Songs of the Elements

- ▶ Elements - Lemon Jelly (2002)
- ▶ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSj8\\_qsS4SM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSj8_qsS4SM)
  - ▶ A different approach - see if you can hear how the elements are represented in this song - not just in the words!



# Songs of the Elements

- ▶ Starting songs - lyrics or music?
  - ▶ You can approach songwriting in many different ways, but people always ask 'lyrics or music first'
    - ▶ **Try**
      - ▶ Find a **sound** that you think represents one of the elements and record it
    - OR**
    - ▶ Think of some **words** that are connected to one of the elements and write them down



# Messed Up Clichés

This one is specifically for lyric writing.

- Take a cliché or saying and mess it up
- How could you mess up ‘Better late than never’
- ‘Better never than late’
- ‘Never better than late’
- ‘Worse early than always’



# Make a rule then break it

- 'I will only use major chords - apart from one'
- 'Each line must start with the same word'
- 'If the chord is 'C' the lyric that goes with it has to start with C'
- Make up your own!



# Songwriting Tips

- The most difficult thing is to start
- Try and write a whole album using one idea or theme, then use the best two or three songs
- Use 'Notes' on your phone - scribble it on a bit of paper - but don't trust that you'll remember it
- Don't worry if it's no good! You'll have learned something, just write another!





Thanks!

