

Songwriting & Recording

Course Overview

This course guides young students through the creative process of writing and recording their own original song. Step by step, they'll learn how to craft lyrics, develop melody, and record vocals using beginner-friendly tools. Students will finish the course with a complete, self-written and recorded song they can proudly share.

No prior musical experience is needed—just curiosity, imagination, and a love of music!

Course Outline – Class by Class

Class 1: Getting Started – Inspiration & Ideas

- Musical interests and influences
- What makes a great song?
- Brainstorming personal themes or stories

Class 2: Song Structure & Topic Choice

- Learn parts of a song (verse, chorus, bridge)
- Analyze an example song
- Choose a theme or message for the student's song

Class 3: Writing Verse 1

- Use rhyme, rhythm, and personal voice
- Practice free-writing and drafting
- Write a first verse together

Class 4: Writing the Chorus

- What makes a chorus catchy and powerful?
- Draft a chorus that connects to the theme
- Practice phrasing and repetition

Class 5: Writing Verse 2 or Bridge

- Continue the story or deepen the message
- Explore contrast between sections
- Finalize basic song structure

Class 6: Melody & Vocal Practice

- Match lyrics to a melody line (student-led or guided)
- Explore rhythm and phrasing
- Practice singing full sections

Class 7: Lyric Editing & Final Song Draft

- Refine word choice and rhythm
- Polish transitions between sections
- Sing through the full draft

Class 8: Recording Prep – Tools & Setup

- Introduction to digital recording basics (BandLab, GarageBand, Soundtrap, etc.)

- Microphone setup and soundcheck
- Practice recording a short section

Class 9: Recording Vocals – Part 1

- Record main vocals (verse and chorus)
- Practice clarity, timing, and confidence

Class 10: Recording Vocals – Part 2

- Record second verse, bridge, or final touches
- Optional: Add harmonies or vocal layers

Class 11: Basic Mixing & Song Review

- Adjust vocal levels, add simple effects
- Listen to full version together and revise as needed

Class 12: Song Title & Cover Copy (Optional)

- Finalize song title
- Write a short artist note or song description (optional)

Class 13: Final Playback & Reflection

- Listen to final version
- Reflect on process, growth, and challenges
- Discuss: What's next? Another song? Sharing with others?

Class 14–15: Extra Polish / Mini-Concert

- Recording fixes or mixing improvements
- Starting a new song if time allows
- Practicing performance or vocal skills