

# The Art Of Songwriting

## *Pre-Assignment*

Greetings! I'm Kevin Hanson, instructor for The Art Of Songwriting for this summer's Continuing Ed program.

This class is always a lot of fun. We will look at the many aspects and tools involved in songwriting across many genres. If you can, please pick up a copy of *Writing Better Lyrics*, by Pat Pattison. It is an invaluable resource for songwriting and I reference it often throughout the course. Here is a link: [https://www.amazon.com/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=writing+better+lyrics&tag=googhydr-20&index=aps&hvadid=241629775890&hvpos=1t1&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=6675508752890139650&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=e&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007319&hvtargid=kwd-447513215&ref=pd\\_sl\\_7gc4oftrbh\\_e](https://www.amazon.com/s/?ie=UTF8&keywords=writing+better+lyrics&tag=googhydr-20&index=aps&hvadid=241629775890&hvpos=1t1&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=6675508752890139650&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=e&hvdev=c&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=9007319&hvtargid=kwd-447513215&ref=pd_sl_7gc4oftrbh_e)

Before the class starts, I ask that you compile a list of ten songs that you love. These can be from any style or genre, from current top 40, to your favorite grade-school jam, to show tunes, rap, country, folk, anything.

An area of concentration in this class is song form. In the next few weeks, it would be helpful if you start paying attention to song form. Is it verse-chorus structure? Does the song have a bridge? Is it a 12 bar blues? an AABA form like "Somewhere Over The Rainbow"? We will delve deeply into these subjects.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns: [khanson@uarts.edu](mailto:khanson@uarts.edu)

My website: [kevinhansonmusic.com](http://kevinhansonmusic.com)

I'm really looking forward to meeting and working with you all!

Thanks,  
Kevin