The Art of Writing Songs

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Notional schedule of topics: timing might vary depending on pace of group. Each session will begin with a short overview, including listening to excerpts or demonstrations from Diane. At the end of each session, we'll discuss preparatory work to be done for the next session.

Week 1
Writing lyrics to an existing melody. This will be a group exercise (groups of 3).

Week 2
Everybody gets the blues: writing a 12-bar blues. Participants can work individually or in groups.

Week 3
Setting poetry to music – part 1: finding melodies that fit the words.

Week 4
Setting poetry to music – part 2: starting to work out the harmony for your melody.

Week 5
Writing your own song:

- Option 1: finalize music and harmony for your chosen poem.
- Option 2: write your own song from scratch

Week 6
Final tweaks and updates to your song. If they wish to do so, students will have the opportunity to perform their song, or Diane can perform it if they prefer.

Other interesting resources: Closer to the start date, Diane will provide an up-to-date list of suggested apps for iOS and Android devices that can be used as tools to help find harmonies for songs.

Did you know? Your registration in the LinR program allows you to borrow materials from Carleton University’s MacOdrum Library. To receive a temporary borrowing card, visit the circulation desk and identify yourself as a participant of LinR.