



Listening to Music - Page 1

Songwriters and Producers



Overview

Musicians almost always collaborate with others to write, record and release their music. Two of the most common collaborations are with songwriters and producers.

Songwriters may write lots of songs and then send them to artists who might like to record them. Other times, they work directly with the performing artist to write a song together.

Producers have a complex role in the music industry. You could think of them sort of like the “head coach” of the music-making team. They might perform some or all of the following tasks (and many more!):

1. Helping the artist choose a soundscape - microphones, synthesizers, drum beats and sounds, etc.
2. Helping to “arrange” the song and put the parts in an order that will get the message across (and sell the song!)
3. Help provide an overall vision for the sound and flow of a collection of songs
4. Encouraging musicians to try different musical ideas or sounds. They may add in their own beats or instrumental recording as well!

Exploration

Producers & Songwriter Ideas

- Butch Vig (Nirvana, Smashing Pumpkins, Sonic Youth)
- Linda Perry (P!nk, Dolly Parton, Weezer,
- Rick Rubin (Red Hot Chili Peppers, Black Sabbath, Beastie Boys, Rage Against the Machine, Aerosmith)
- Phil Spector (The Ramones, The Beatles, The Ronettes, The Righteous Brothers)
- Quincy Jones (Michael Jackson, George Benson, Leslie Gore)
- Sylvia Massey (Melvins, Tool, Powerman 5000)
- Prince (Himself, Janelle Monae, No Doubt, Chaka Khan, Sheila E.)
- Max Martin (N'Sync, Maroon 5, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Ariana Grande, The Weeknd)
- WondaGurl (Mariah Carey, Jay-Z, Travis Scott)
- Scott Hendricks (Brooks N Dunn, Faith Hill, Blake Shelton, Trace Adkins)



Listening to Music - Page 2

Songwriters and Producers



I listened to five songs produced/written by _____.

1) Artist- _____ Song- _____

2) Artist- _____ Song- _____

3) Artist- _____ Song- _____

4) Artist- _____ Song- _____

5) Artist- _____ Song- _____

How did your producer get their start? Do/did they play an instrument themselves?

Name two or more popular albums/singles they produced?

Where is your producer from? Was their **work** based out of any notable cities?

How is their sound described by musicians, critics, etc.?