SONGWRITING

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This course is designed for students with an understanding and appreciation of music and demonstrated desire to learn the process of songwriting and the basics of music theory. Classes will study both the creative and the analytic process of music and involve writing exercises, song analysis, as well as basic fundamentals of music notation as it relates to popular song.

CONTET OBJECTIVES
-learn basic song forms and styles
-listen to, transcribe, analyze and emulate popular songs in different genres and formats
-develop fluency in conventional music notation and nomenclature
-study commonly found pop notation techniques including the Nashville number system
-create, edit and refine our own songs
-develop tools for increasing our output, writing efficiently, and overcoming writer's blocks
-research recording, sequencing and notation software options and their related values and uses
-study instruments, techniques and textures utilized in modern pop music production
-study the basics of the recording and publishing industries

SKILL OBJECTIVES
-to identify basic song forms & commonly used musical textures through analysis
-to read and notate music, both classically and in commonly used popular practices
-to generate solid musical & lyrical ideas
-to organize said ideas into effective songs
-to perform songs effectively with respect to contemporary performance practice and etiquette in various forums (open mics, song circles, workshops)
-to utilize software and basic recording techniques for demos and to understand the recording process
-to create and promote our own recordings and performances

METHODS OF EVALUATION
-Written analysis assignments and presentations
-Assessment of projects and assignments
-Classroom discussions and participations

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS
-Students must pledge and abide by the honor code of Episcopal High School
-Students should plan on taking detailed notes during every lecture
-Laptops are not allowed in class time
-Computers in the lab are **NEVER** to be used for Email or Internet usage without permission. Students found doing so will be asked to leave the class immediately. Any unauthorized use or modification of the computer will be considered a violation of the honor code and reported to the honor committee.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
-Corycat, Karl. The Frustrated Songwriter's Handbook. Backbeat Books, 2006
-Pattison, Pat. Writing Better Lyrics (1st Edition). Writer's Digest Books, 1995
-Webb, Jimmy. Tunesmith: Inside the Art of Songwriting (1st Edition). Hyperion, 1998
-ProTools, Version 8. Digidesign, Inc. 2009
-Acid Music Pro 3.0 Sony, 2004