



# UU MUSIC CONVENTION 2024

Bugema Secondary School 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024



## SONGWRITING

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## SONGWRITING

**1) SONGWRITING REQUIREMENTS:** talent, skills, and attributes that allow songwriters to compose music, These include:

- Singing
- Playing an instrument
- Writing lyrics
- Writing music
- Composing
- Recording

These can be natural talents or those they develop with practice or training.



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## SONGWRITING

### 2) SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### i) Musical Talent

**Ability to sing & Ability to play one or more musical instruments.**

**Songwriters may have natural vocal talent or receive training from a vocal coach. Singing and playing instruments can allow individuals to create music and hear it.**

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## SONGWRITING

### 2) SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### ii) Creativity

It's important for a songwriter to be creative. They can use their creativity to find inspiration from various sources such as:

- Sermons
- Scriptures
- Listening to different music styles and cultures
- Stories etc

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## SONGWRITING

### 2) SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### iii) Musical score writing

A musical score or sheet is a written form of music which contains:

- Melodies for solos
- Harmonies for groups
- Chords for instruments
- Arrangements for bands or orchestra

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## SONGWRITING

### 2) SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### iv) Lyricism - *ennombojja*

Lyricism is the expression of feelings and thoughts through song. Poetry is the ability to tell a story in a structured and rhythmic pattern. Songwriters can use these skills to write songs that convey emotions while following a particular form. As a songwriter, you can improve by regularly reading poetry and writing lyrics.

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## SONGWRITING

### 2) SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### v) Communication

A songwriting job may require communicating with other musical artists, producers and executives. Having written and verbal communication skills are important to help you interact with colleagues while maintaining professionalism. These are transferable skills you can learn through experience.

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## SONGWRITING

### 2) SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### vi) Interpersonal skills

Interpersonal skills involve being able to work with others to create effective relationships. You can use such skills to network with other musicians, exposing you to songwriting opportunities. These skills can also help you maintain a healthy work environment with fellow musicians and producers.

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## SONGWRITING

### 2) SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### vii) Technical Skills

Technical skills for a songwriter allow you to compose music using musical notation software to record and edit your songs digitally. You can learn these skills by watching online tutorials.

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## SONGWRITING

### 3) HOW TO IMPROVE SONGWRITING SKILLS

There are several ways to improve your songwriting skills:

#### i) Practice

Practise your songwriting skills by writing regularly. This can allow you to improve various aspects of your songwriting. Consistently writing music using musical notation software can allow you to become adept at using it.

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## SONGWRITING

### 3) HOW TO IMPROVE SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### ii) Research

You can research different musical styles and cultures and incorporate them into your songwriting so long as they comply with our church music philosophy. For example, if you're conversant with writing traditional church music research other styles such as soul, classical and country music. You may discover new influences that boost your creativity.

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## SONGWRITING

### 3) HOW TO IMPROVE SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### iii) Read poetry

Poetry can expose you to various rhythmic styles and patterns, which can help you write songs with different tempos and beats. Poetry can help you structure your songs to incorporate a flow that conveys a message while demonstrating lyricism.



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## SONGWRITING

### 3) HOW TO IMPROVE SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### iv) Identify training opportunities

**You can look for relevant training programmes if you want to become familiar with a particular instrument or learn to write music scores. These can expose you to new skills while you improve your current ones.**

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## SONGWRITING

### 3) HOW TO IMPROVE SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### v) Ask for feedback

You can ask producers, colleagues and family members for feedback on your songwriting. They might offer an alternative perspective on your music and highlight areas for development. You can use this feedback to create a plan to improve your skills.

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## SONGWRITING

### 3) HOW TO IMPROVE SONGWRITING SKILLS

#### vi) Prayer

Olw'okuba okuyimba kwaffe kwonna kwetooloola ku kulangirira bubaka bwa Bamalayika abasatu, kitugwaanidde bulijjo okusabanga Omwoyo wa Katonda atulung'anye mu buweereza obw'okuyiia ennyimba, ez'okuteekateeka ensi olw'okudda kwa Kristo amangu.



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## SONGWRITING

### 4) SONG TRANSLATION

Two main ways to translate song lyrics

- Poetic translation
- Word-for-word translation





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## SONGWRITING

### 4) SONG TRANSLATION

#### i) Poetic translation

This is translating the lyrics loosely, not sticking too close to the words of the original text. More often than not, the main problem with song translations is distinctions in phonetics - languages sound different, which doesn't let conveying the meaning as smoothly as wished it to be. Understanding the theme of the lyrics then compose in another language.

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## SONGWRITING

### 4) SONG TRANSLATION

#### ii) Word-for-word translation

This kind of translation most of the time doesn't bother too much about grammar and phonetics. It's focused on the meaning and it is the key issue as it does not always sound well to native speakers' ears. As grammar rules are left on the sidelines with word-for-word technique, the song could not be to everyone's liking.

**Always avoid it**

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