



*These are the questions you'll be asked on your song feedback form and indicate what the mentors will be looking for in your song. Please use this checklist as a way of crafting your song. This way you'll start to think more objectively about your songs and improve faster!*

## Song Feedback Checklist

Song title \*

Has this song been written since joining the Platinum Mentoring Program? \*

- ☐ Yes. Great, please carry on!
- ☐ No. Sorry, you can't submit this song.

Feedbacks are available for new songs, written since starting your program only, as this is the best way to guide your improvement effectively. Please DO NOT submit songs written prior to joining the program.

Any specific notes about this song?

PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR A SPECIFIC MENTOR. Song feedbacks are based on availability. It's also great for you to get varied approaches to your work.

## Song Information

All writers and splits \*

e.g. Tom Smith 33%, Dick Smith 33%. Harry Smith 33%

Link to your song \*

Soundcloud or similar

Reference: Which artist(s) or sound do you hear for this song \*

Let the mentor know how you envisage the final produced song e.g. EDM, folk, Katy Perry, Charlie Puth, Michael Bublé etc.

## Structure

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How long is your song? \*

Tip: Try keeping your song 3m or under, with a maximum of 3m 30s

When is your first chorus? \*

Tip: Try bringing in your first chorus at 45s or less, with a maximum of 1m

How many different parts does your song have e.g. My song has 3 sections: verse, pre and chorus? \*

Having just 3 different parts works brilliantly because it's simple, 4 is ok if you really need to, but 5 and above is nearly always a no-no!

Is there strong contrast between the parts of your song? \*

Yes



Contrast is everything in songwriting. If your song sounds linear or 'samey' you will lose the listeners very quickly.

## Music

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Do you change the melodic form between the parts of your song? \*

Yes



This can help create strong contrast so double check, and if you don't change form, try a re-write of your melodies!

Where do you use static, conjunct and disjunct melodies? \*

Do you have an exciting melodic contour in your song? \*

Yes



Melodic contour is the pitch of the notes. Higher notes in the chorus and lower notes in the verses help take the listeners on a musical rollercoaster!

Does your melody rise and peak in the chorus? \*

Yes

This helps create a 'moment' for your chorus although sometimes it can cool to do the opposite and have a massive dip in the chorus melody.

Where are your hooks? What is your strongest hook and where does it live? \*

Hooks are essential if you want the listeners to remember your song. Make sure they are repeated!

What is the vocal range of your song? \*

If you're pitching songs to other artists, it's a good rule of thumb to write within a range of 1.5 octaves to keep your opportunities broad.

Do you use any 'surprise' chords in your song? Please give details. \*

A surprise chord can help suddenly grab the listeners attention, so it's great if you want to pull them in with a surprise chord in order to deliver your killer lyric.

## Lyrics

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What is the point of your song? \*

Crystallise the song down so you know what the listener is going to walk away with as a message or thought. One succinct point is all you need.

Which pronouns do you use most in your song? \*

You and I are the strongest pronouns as they create a connection between the performer and the audience. If your song is third person she/he, have you tried turning it into you/I?

Do you have a stand out lyric within the first two lines of your song? \*

This is overlooked as a really effective way to get the listener 'on your side' from the very beginning of your song.

Do you have 'conflict' in your song? If so give details. \*

Conflict is where lyrics oppose each other and therefore create more impact for the listener without them even being aware of it.

Do you use any internal rhymes in your song. Give details. \*

If you can't find any, have a close look at your lyric and see if a re-write could add some.

Does your chorus make sense if that's all the listener heard? \*

Yes

Sometimes people only tune in to the chorus when they're listening 'passively' without intention. IF that's all they hear, make sure they 'get' your song enough to want to listen to the rest of it!

Is your lyric easy to understand? \*

Yes

Simple and understandable lyrics don't mean you're dumbing anything down, it means your song is accessible!

Is your lyric easily singable? \*

Yes

If you , or whoever is singing the song struggles to get the words out, re-write!

## The Feels

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What do you hope the listeners will feel? \*

Think about the feelings of the listener when you write, not just how you feel. At the same time, make sure the song comes from a real place in you.

What do you love about your song? \*

You'd better LOVE this song or you need to re-write it until you do!

How do you think your song could be improved? \*

Be honest with yourself and the mentor. That's how you will improve as a writer.

Are there any 'red flags' in your song? \*

Check for those niggly moments when you wonder if a section of melody or lyric could be just a tad better...

Any other comments