

How a Song Gets Written

Our method: seven miles from an idea to a finished song, the way The Lucky One was made.

● THE IDEA

● THE WRITING

● THE CHECK

● THE FINISH

THE IDEA

Find your twist and title

The angle only you would use, and the hook people will sing back.

THE LUCKY ONE *Each thinks the other is the lucky one*

THE WRITING

Write the chorus first

By hand, on the template. Then the verses and bridge. Finish the draft before you fix it.

THE LUCKY ONE *352 words, start to finish*

THE WRITING

Check every line is yours

At every draft, search each line on the web and rewrite any close match. A search catches borrowed lines; it can't prove a line is new.

THE LUCKY ONE *No match found in our searches*

THE FINISH

MILE 1

MILE 2

MILE 3

MILE 4

MILE 5

MILE 6

MILE 7

A FINISHED SONG

Pick who it honors

Start with a person, not a topic. Who do you want to thank?

THE LUCKY ONE *A love note to one person*

THE IDEA

Gather true details

Show, don't tell. Write down real moments, then live with it for a few days.

THE LUCKY ONE *She loved that farm kid then*

THE WRITING

Rewrite, then lock your lines

Read it out loud and cut extra words. Then decide which lines are locked.

THE LUCKY ONE *The brief went through eight versions*

THE CHECK

Test it, then finish it

Play it for 10 to 20 strangers. Settle who writes the melody, in writing. Hire a singer. Register the song.

THE RESULT *Written and sung by people*

Who does what

YOU

The person, the twist, every word and every final call.

THE TOOLS

Organize your notes, search every line for copies and make rough demos.

YOUR RECORDING PRODUCER

The singer, the band and the finished recording.

The story behind each mile

This is our method, not the only one. You don't need to sing or play. You need something to say and the patience to keep at it.

MILE 1

Pick who it honors

THE IDEA

The best songs start with a person, not a topic. Ask who you want to thank, remember or lift up. The Lucky One began as a simple love note to one person.

MILE 2

Find your twist and title

THE IDEA

A tribute is easy to write and hard to make original. Find the angle only you would use. In The Lucky One, each person quietly believes the other got the better deal, and only the listener sees both. Then name it: your title is usually your hook, the line people sing back.

MILE 3

Gather true details

THE WRITING

Songwriters call it show, don't tell. Write down real moments: where it started, what you saw, what nobody else knows. Then let the song build in your head for a few days. True details make people believe you: *"She loved that farm kid then / And she loves him just the same."*

MILE 4

Write the chorus first

THE WRITING

Print the template and use a pencil. Start with the chorus: it carries the hook and the main message. Then the verses tell the story, a pre-chorus builds toward the chorus, and the bridge brings a new view late in the song. Finish the whole draft before you fix any line. Can't play an instrument? Hum the tune into your phone.

MILE 5

Rewrite, then lock your lines

THE WRITING

Good songs are rewritten many times. Read every line out loud: if you wouldn't say it, don't sing it. Cut extra words. Then decide on your locked lines: the ones that will not change, no matter who gives you notes. Write them in a one-page brief with the song in a paragraph and the hook. The Lucky One's brief went through eight versions.

MILE 6

Check every line is yours

THE CHECK

Years of listening leave lines in your head, and you can borrow one without knowing it. So check at every draft, not just at the end. Search each line on the web, word for word, and ask AI tools whether it sounds like a known song. Rewrite any line that turns up in another song. A search can catch a borrowed line, but no search can prove a line is original. If a line started as an AI suggestion, rewrite it in your own words: the Copyright Office asks you to disclose AI-written lines and leave them out of your claim. Keep the results on file.

MILE 7

Test it, then finish it

THE FINISH

Make a rough demo and fix what doesn't sing well. Play it for 10 to 20 people who don't know you, and watch who asks to hear it again. Decide where the melody comes from (you, a co-writer, your singer or producer) and put it in writing. A melody made by AI can't be copyrighted. Then hire a singer and producer, and register the song (see How a Song Gets Released).

LEARNED THE HARD WAY

- ❑ **The words must be heard.** Clear singing beats a big voice. An early listener cried at a rough demo because she could hear every word.
- ❑ **Hold back.** One catch in the voice moves people more than belting.
- ❑ **Feedback has a limit.** After three or four rounds of reviews, the advice turns generic. Stop and play it for strangers.

REALITY CHECKS

- ❑ **Demos are for testing.** Music made by AI may not be protected by copyright. The final recording should be made by people.
- ❑ **Get it in writing.** Co-writers sign a split sheet the same day. A hired singer or producer assigns the rights to you.
- ❑ **Register first, with advice.** Register the lyric before you share it widely. This is the general rule, not legal advice: before registering a song with music, a quick check with a music attorney is worth it.

Start at mile one. The template is free.

GET THE TEMPLATE