

Tapping into your own creativity

Something that's linked to why we feel like we want to write songs in the first place, and something that helps us write songs that connect with people is drawing out things we mind about - things that concern us, delight us, outrage us, disappoint us, etc

Today's warm up is to sharpen your perceptions in that area.

If you find this hard - or anxiety-provoking - it gets easier the more you do it.

Increased self-definition helps the quality of your songwriting.

List out ten things that intrigue you, bug you, worry you, obsess you, make you curious, make you angry, from people leaving crisp packets in your car to junk mail to anything you can think of. Don't worry about ranking these or establishing what is the most meaningful to you, or if you 'really' care about it. If it's popped into your head, it can go in.

The personal view of the world that strikes a chord with the listener is why we can tackle the same subject a hundred times and come up with good and different takes on it.

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2.

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You can take the same stimulus prompt, idea, topic or material, and depending on the specific things that matter to you, you will draw different things out of it. This is why the list song is such an interesting and revealing device for songwriting - when prompted to survey what stands out for you in recent experience, certain themes will emerge more strong for you than others. The more songs you write, the more you will notice that certain signature subjects or themes emerge more than once.

For ten minutes, write down everything that stands out for you in current affairs, pop culture, recent history (last 20 years).