



How to Write Songs on a UKULELE

By: Kevin Presbrey

1. FIND INSPIRATION

- a. Take a walk
- b. Change up your routine
- c. Keep a notebook with you

2. CHOOSE KEY+CHORDS

- a. See chord chart
- b. See key chord chart
- c. Create sections

3. POPULAR FORMULAS

- a. A A B A
- b. A A B A B A
- c. V-CH-V-CH-BR-CH-CH
- d. V-PRE-CH-V-PRE-CH-BR-CH

4. TELL A STORY

- Who are some of your favorite songwriters?
- How did they tell their stories?
- Imitation is not illegal, it's flattering
- Who are the characters?
- What is the point of view?

5. RECORD YOURSELF

- Play and record your ideas (Iphone recorder)
- Listen back
- Keep jamming on ideas and experimenting

6. EDIT + REDRAFT

- Think about the story you're telling or the message you're getting across. Are there places within the song where you could improve *the story*?
- Are there words and phrases that sound cool, but don't sing well?
- Repeat until you feel good about it
- Never give up!

