THE ULTIMATE SONGWRITING PROOFREADING CHECKLIST

**song title**
- Title encompasses the main idea of the song.
- The title is repeated multiple times throughout the song.
- A listener would be able to identify the title of your song after hearing the song once.

**lyrics**
- The "hook" is memorable.
- The chorus contains the central idea of the song.
- The verses lyrically support the main idea of the song. There are no lyrics that are irrelevant or off-topic.
- The lyrics are detail-rich and not vague or cliché.
- The voice (1st, 2nd, 3rd person) is consistent throughout the song.
- If there is change of voice, it makes logical sense and won't confuse the listener.
- The tense (past, present, future) is consistent.

**melody**
- There is melodic contrast between the verses and the chorus.
- The melody fits naturally with the inflection of the lyrics.
- The melody does not emphasize awkward syllables that wouldn't be naturally emphasized when spoken out loud.
- The melody fits well with the voice and isn't difficult to sing.
rhythm

☐ The tempo is appropriate for the central theme of the song.

☐ The tempo does not force the singer to sing unnaturally fast or slow.

☐ The rhythm of the vocal line does not emphasize syllables that wouldn’t naturally be emphasized in speech. (If it does, it is done for effect.)

☐ The vocal line is rhythmically interesting and uses syncopation effectively.

chord progression

☐ The chord progression flows naturally from section to section and the transitions are an appropriate length.

☐ The chord progressions “fits” with the melody, with no accidental clashing notes.

structure & length

☐ There is enough contrast between the sections of the song (verse, chorus, bridge).

☐ If there is a pre-chorus, it builds up tension leading into the chorus.

☐ There is a good balance of new material vs. repetition.

☐ The song is under 4 minutes

☐ If the song is longer than 4 minutes, it is necessary for the flow of the song, holds the listeners' attention, and isn't overly repetitive.

notes