

5 INSANELY GREAT SONGWRITING TOOLS

(and they're all gloriously FREE or ridiculously CHEAP!)



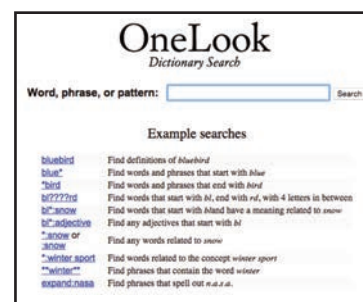
by Alex Forbes for CreativeSongwriter.com

As a professional songwriter for 30 years, there are certain digital tools that have become indispensable to me. Check out a few, and start wasting approximately ZERO minutes when inspiration strikes during your next rapid-fire writing session. Don't hesitate... go for it!

Tool #1: OneLook.com

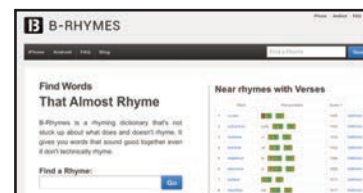
This site is my absolute favorite discovery. The landing page looks deceptively simple, masking the awesome power of its database.

Let's say you're writing a lyric, and the concept is that your ex treated you like dirt. But the word "dirt" doesn't sing well. You just put magical formula in (in this case, a colon followed by the word "dirt"), and BOOM — up pop 243 words related to dirt — great for nudging you out of that tight spot you're stuck in! Plus you can search for words that start or end with a specific word, have a similar underlying concept, etc. Amazing!



Tool #2: B-Rhymes.com

I LOVE this site and app, use them all the time. The extensive lists of slant/off/near/partial/imperfect rhymes would do Cole Porter proud — except wait... he preferred perfect rhymes. Simply type in the word you want to sort of rhyme with, and voila: a gazillion B-rhymes that venture farther and farther from the original word.



Tool #3: OpenMikes.org

So many of us songwriters chain ourselves to a computer or submit our material to faceless websites, missing out on the opportunity to strut our latest stuff in front of living, breathing humans. Nothing compares to the thrill of performing your song for an audience... even an audience consisting of two drunks and a bored bartender. Signing up for an open mic also forces you to practice your songs relentlessly or risk utter humiliation, creating a powerful incentive. Enter your zip code in this database and see what opportunities lurk in your neighborhood. Then invite all your friends and have a blast. Much more fun than Karaoke, right?



Hit songwriter Alex Forbes works with committed songwriters to prepare their music and lyrics for film, TV and record label placements. To schedule a FREE 20-minute conversation about how to kick your songwriting into high gear, visit

www.CreativeSongwriter.com

Tool #4: iTalk Recorder Premium (\$1.99)

Your smartphone probably came with a voice memo app, but believe me, this one ROCKS. I've been using it religiously for years thanks to a few key features.

For one thing, you can set iTalk to Record your session with one simple click the minute you open the app, which is ultra-handly when you have a burning idea that might disappear on the next stiff breeze. Secondly, it's super-easy to label a rough take of your latest masterpiece, then email copies to yourself and everyone else who needs one.

Thirdly, you can pair the smartphone with the desktop app, and wirelessly transfer larger (or multiple) files to your computer in a snap — handy if you've recorded a 3-hour writing session and need to search through it for a particularly tasty idea. Finally, you can set the level of quality, allowing you to limit file size. Never lose another minute of inspiration!



Tool #5: GuitarToolkit (\$2.99)

I pretty much use this app every day — and it's NOT just for guitarists! Along with a super-accurate tuner, it's got a tap-tempo metronome, a chord-identifier and a library of a gazillion, chords, scales and arpeggios. There are even chord charts of some songs packed in there, though I've never used it for that.



I saw some reports of users being spammed by ads, but this has never been my experience, so maybe those folks have their settings wrong, or work for competing app companies, haha. I give it 10 stars outta 5.

There ya have it! If you want more songwriter-friendly freebies, visit my site,
CreativeSongwriter.com
