

词汇: *music* 音乐

Singer-songwriters write songs, but how do they do it? Where do musicians get their inspiration from? What comes first – the music or the **lyrics**? It turns out that everyone has their own way of writing which works for them.

Bob Dylan is a musician with a unique musical style. It has been described as **folk rock, gospel, country** and **jazz**. He told the BBC that he gets a lot of his writing inspiration from novels like Don Quixote and Robinson Crusoe. He said 'They give you a way of looking at life and understanding of human nature and a standard to measure things by. I took that all with me when I started **composing** lyrics'. It seems to have worked for him. He has had a career spanning six decades and has won many songwriting awards.

And what comes first, the music or the lyrics? Stephen Sondheim, a musical theatre **composer** who died in 2021, said in an interview with The New Yorker that, when it comes to songwriting, the **stress** in a **phrase** is very important for him. 'You can start writing a lyric, and then the **inflection** of the lyric suggests a **tune**.' Therefore, in his way of writing, the music and lyrics come at roughly the same time.

In 2022, Taylor Swift won a Songwriter-Artist of the Decade award. In her speech, she said lyrics are her favourite part of songwriting. She describes the majority of her songs as having a 'modern **storyline** or references, with a poetic **twist**' and commonly uses real life experiences and conversations as influence.

Aside from lyrics, an important part of many songs is the **instrumental backing**. This is often created with **chords**, where at least three **notes** are played at the same time, often on a piano or guitar. **Chord progression** is where different chords are played one after the other, and therefore can act as the base for **vocals**.

So, if you're feeling musical, **lay down** some chords, get inspired and give it a go yourself!

词汇表

singer-songwriter	创作型歌手
lyric	歌词
folk rock	摇滚民谣
gospel	福音音乐
country	乡村音乐
jazz	爵士乐
compose	创作
composer	作曲家，创作者
stress	重音，强调部分
phrase	乐句
inflection	语调的抑扬变化
tune	旋律，曲调
storyline	故事情节
twist	转折变化
instrumental backing	乐器伴奏
chord	和弦
note	音，音符
chord progression	和弦进行，一连串的和弦转换
vocal	人声演唱部分
lay down	写出，录制

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What musical style does Bob Dylan have?
2. True or false? *Bob Dylan quotes novels in his lyrics.*
3. What type of music does Sondheim compose?
4. What type of lyrics do most of Taylor Swift's songs have?
5. How is instrumental backing often created?

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Stella incorporates many genres into her songs. She has her own _____.

folk rock	gospel	country	musical style
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2. I don't know the words to this song. I'll look for the _____ online.

lyrics	phrases	tunes	chords
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3. This part of the song is very high for me. I can't reach that _____.

vocal	note	storyline	inflection
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4. She's a _____ so she writes the music, but she doesn't sing or play.

composer	singer-songwriter	musician	artist
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5. I didn't know you could _____ the guitar.

lay down	compose	write	play
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. What musical style does Bob Dylan have?

He has a unique musical style. It has been described as folk rock, gospel, country and jazz.

2. True or false? *Bob Dylan quotes novels in his lyrics.*

False. He gets a lot of his writing inspiration from novels.

3. What type of music does Sondheim compose?

Stephen Sondheim is a musical theatre composer.

4. What type of lyrics do most of Taylor Swift's songs have?

She describes the majority of her songs as having a 'modern storyline or references, with a poetic twist'.

5. How is instrumental backing often created?

This is often created with chords, where at least three notes are played at the same time, often on a piano or guitar.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Stella incorporates many genres into her songs. She has her own **musical style**.

2. I don't know the words to this song. I'll look for the **lyrics** online.

3. This part of the song is very high for me. I can't reach that **note**.

4. She's a **composer** so she writes the music, but she doesn't sing or play.

5. I didn't know you could **play** the guitar.