

# ElevenLabs Music – Prompting Guide

This guide summarizes the official best practices and technical recommendations for writing effective prompts in **ElevenLabs Music**, based on ElevenLabs' documentation and support articles. It provides structure, ideal length, and recommended terminology for achieving professional-quality results.

## 1. General Best Practices

- Be **specific**: describe genre, style, instruments, mood, and intended use.
- Combine **multiple descriptors**: e.g. "slow melancholic piano melody with airy pads for a film score".
- Define instruments explicitly: e.g. "soft felt piano, warm strings, acoustic guitar".
- Use **Include/Exclude Styles** options to refine results.
- Structure the song by **sections**: Intro, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Outro.
- Iterate: modify and regenerate sections instead of restarting from scratch.

## 2. Technical Prompting Deep Dive

- Use **keywords** that combine abstract mood (eerie, nostalgic) and concrete descriptors (dissonant violin, distorted guitar).
- Specify **tempo** (e.g., "72 BPM") and **key** (e.g., "in A minor") to guide harmony and rhythm.
- Define **vocal style**: e.g. "female vocals, breathy and raw, two singers harmonizing in C".
- Control **timing**: e.g. "lyrics begin at 15 seconds", "instrumental only", "track duration 2:30".
- Provide **lyrics** if needed; otherwise clearly state "instrumental".

## 3. Structure of an Ideal Prompt

An effective ElevenLabs Music prompt should follow this order:

1. **Genre & Style**: e.g. "Pop ballad", "Cinematic orchestral", "Ambient meditation".
2. **Mood & Emotion**: specify atmosphere (nostalgic, uplifting, eerie, meditative).
3. **Instrumentation**: list instruments and sound textures.
4. **Tempo & Key**: set BPM and tonal center (if relevant).
5. **Vocal Details**: describe type of voice, style, delivery, or "instrumental only".
6. **Structure**: define sections (Intro, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Outro).
7. **Additional Constraints**: e.g. "exclude percussion", "no climax", "long reverb".
8. **Duration**: specify total time (e.g., "60 seconds", "2:30").

## 4. Prompt Length & Terminology

- Ideal length: **150–250 characters** for concise yet detailed descriptions.
- Use **clear, descriptive terms** instead of vague words ("gentle felt piano" vs. "nice piano").
- Avoid unnecessary narrative: focus on **musical and technical attributes**.
- Combine **emotional descriptors** with **musical terms** for best results.
- Example: "Heartfelt pop ballad at 72 BPM with expressive female vocals, piano-led with warm strings, acoustic guitar, lush pads, and soft percussion. Nostalgic and soul-stirring, inspired by Christina Aguilera's Hurt."

## 5. Workflow Recommendations

- Start with a **core prompt** defining genre, mood, instruments, and duration.
- Generate the base track, then use the **editor to refine sections** (Intro, Verse, Chorus).
- Experiment with **Include/Exclude Styles** for fine-tuning.
- Save metadata: prompt, date/time, duration, instruments, and evaluation notes.
- Compare outputs across multiple prompts for consistency.

**Conclusion**

Effective prompting in ElevenLabs Music requires a balance of specificity and clarity. Define genre, mood, instrumentation, tempo, key, and structure, while keeping prompts concise (150–250 characters). Use the editor iteratively and document outputs for professional evaluation.