

RANDOM REMARKS OF RAND BISHOP

The question I hear the most is “how do I get my songs heard?” I’ve come up with five basic answers to that question.



1. DEVELOP YOUR SONGWRITING CRAFT

Songwriting is not an art, it’s a craft. Listen to great songs, evaluate them, is it the words or melody you like, maybe it’s the groove, emotion or attitude, or is it the story that gets your attention. See what makes them different and learn from them. Read books on songwriting, there are plenty of great books on the market that can help you become a better writer. Attend songwriting workshops and seminars; join songwriting associations and other organizations you can learn from. Collect ideas. Most of the time you are preparing to write a song, not writing one. Write the ideas you keep in your idea book or carry a small tape recorded with you at all times. When you get a great idea, if there’s not some way to remember it, you’ll forget it. Write something every day to keep your mind fresh.

2. GET FEED BACK AND CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

Constructive criticism will help your writing. Your songs are your way of communicating with other people, but if the listener doesn’t know or understand what you’re trying to communicate, you’ve failed as a songwriter. Kick your ego and pride out the door and listen to what people have to say about your songs. Observe the body language of those critiquing your songs. Sometimes that will tell you more about what they’re trying to say than their words.

3. RE-WRITE, RE-WRITE, RE-WRITE

Until your songs are airtight, don’t be afraid to kill your baby, and all our songs are our baby’s. Just because you’re trying to hold onto a line or hook that you love but isn’t working, or other don’t like, kill it. Re-writing can be fun, once you get past the fear of changes. All writing is about re-writing and making choices between what is best for the song. Songs are about emotions and communication. If your song is not working, don’t get hung up, move on and write another song. You can always go back to it at a later date.

4. DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS

Networking with people you know can help you get your song recorded. Always be willing to co-write. A line that more people agree with is more like to get a publishers attention. Keep in touch with people you meet in the music business, and be nice to everyone. Most important, listen to what people have to say. Songs are like a little piece of real estate, you never know when someone wants to build a skyscraper on it.

DO GREAT DEMOS! Learn the terms used in the studio and consider putting in a home studio. You can do it for around \$3000. Your demos are your business cards. Make sure all your demos are professional radio ready. Most pro songwriters pay anywhere from \$300 to \$700 and up for their demos and your demos have to be able to compete with theirs.

THE FIVE WORST ENEMIES IN THE MUSIC BUSINESS

ATTITUDE
EGO
GREED
IMPATIENCE
IGNORANCE