A good song is hard to forget. I remember when I was in second grade; our teacher used songs in teaching lessons for all subjects. Before the class session starts, we sing songs related to the topic and everyone was motivated and became interested in learning new things. I was amazed when I watched Dr. Lodge McCammon integrating music in his history lessons about the 50 states of America. He uses his talent in music by making songs using the history lecture as lyrics and combined with a paper slide presentation and amazingly delivered the content without lecturing. Another interesting artist named Jonathan Mann caught my attention. With song a day project, I have noticed that it is possible to create a lecture by means of converting it into a song to minimize the time of discussion and present something new to the students. This strategy might create an “ear worm”, it means that the song is playing in their minds most of the time, over and over until they memorize it.

Writing song is one of the effective tools in handling stress and an effective means of expression. Not all the people can do this but for some that have the talent in this field of arts, you have to continue enhancing your talent even if nobody appreciated it. Who knows? Maybe someday your works might be useful for other instances. I may not be a professional with this field but based on my experiences as a songwriter of my own genre and style combined and with studies regarding this matter, I would like to share some advice for the people who had songwriting talent. This may also work for the people who want to discover their hidden talent in music. Begin with writing lyrics if you don’t know how to play musical instruments but if you do, songwriting will be easier for you. The first step in writing song is to know how you are going to write the song. By means of listening to different genre of music, you can get ideas and make your own in your own way. Initially, you have to think about what you know or what’s important to you,
what you like or maybe what everybody knows about. It is easier to write something about what’s important to you or about your personal interests but if you want to catch the attention of listener or reader, you have to write something about what people knows. It could be about latest issues, trends or topics that most people talk about. If you can’t think of an idea, you can sit in front of the blank wall with a guitar or notebook to eliminate all other distractions. Sing nonsense words until a melody and structure came out. If melody came out, capture it by writing it down as soon as the idea springs on your mind. Write as many verses as you can and then choose the good one later. Write whatever on your mind. Anything could be the topic for the song. Do not use lack of inspiration as an excuse. Write first thing that comes to your mind. You can read books and other materials to get ideas and then start writing. Second, come out with a chord pattern using whatever musical instrument you can play. Remember, reading music is not a factor. Learn to do the major scale first and then other things will be easy. You can start with C major scale because it’s the easiest one for the reason that it has no sharps and flats. C major is composed of C-D-E-F-G-A-B. You can begin using any of the chords within the scale. Start your song using the commonly used pattern in pop music, the 1-4-5 pattern or C-F-G. Decide what key you will use if you do not want to use the C major scale but make sure that the chords are within the key or scale. Keyboard is the most effective musical instrument in making melody but you can also use guitar if you prefer that musical instrument. You can use xylophone in making a song. There is no required chord pattern in playing this instrument, all you have to do is strike the instrument and try making a melody that you desire and if it sounds good, write it down or record it using cellular phone and then think of your own lyrics that fits the melody that you have created. If you don’t know how to play musical instrument, you can still make a melody for your song. As a foundation of the song, think of a good chorus which will be memorable part of the song or simply make it catchy. When the chorus stuck in your head for three days, congratulations, you made it. A song is just like a movie, you can tell a whole story in a song. In order to make a clear description, make verses that are
relevant to each part and details should be meaningful. Create a unique bridge; this should be separate or in different form from the rest. In writing song lyrics, avoid using straight rhyme all throughout the song. You should try putting slant rhymes in your lyrics. Slant rhymes sounds the same but not in the same letters at the end of the words. You can use a rhyme dictionary then pick the words and find a way to make it fit to the lyrics. You can visit a website for rhymes. Try www.rhymezone.com. As you were writing the lyrics, you should keep on one topic. In making the structure of the song, this could be depends on the preference of the songwriter but for the beginners, you can follow or adapt the basic structure in writing song. Begin with a verse followed by pre-chorus part then chorus then make a second verse, pre-chorus, bridge and then chorus or you can listen to a song that you like to use as your guide. If you prefer to make experiment, there is no law against making your own pattern or song structure. You can consider the following in arranging the sequence of your song. You can use “why”, “where”, “when”, “what” and “who”. With that, you can think of ideas on how to arrange your song in proper order. To check if your lyrics are interesting, just simply put yourself in listener’s shoes. If you like it, that would be a great song lyrics. In writing interesting lyrics, you can consider including senses in your composition. If you want to write song which is unique from other song, you can use oxymoron in your lyrics. Oxymoron are two words that have opposite meaning like “yes” and “no” or whatever oxymoron you want to use. Just like pop songs, you can use repetitions in your song. You can do this in a manner that the listener could take. The other way of writing good lyrics is by means of using alteration. This is through using initial consonant sounds together that are the same. To focus the attention of listener to one part of your lyrics, you can also use descriptive colours like “forest green” for example. The listener will surely do not think of other colour aside from what was described in your lyrics. In writing song, you should consider the length of your piece. A long song could make the listener bored or tired of hearing repetitions of the same song part. The length of three minutes and twenty seconds is the average length for the song. If you are considering songwriting as
a career, you should think of the way on how to **advertise your work**. You can upload it in the internet or use it every time there is opportunity. If you have a band or friend that has the same interest like you, you can try brainstorming or collaboration with them. You can start thinking of a topic and then other possible details for the chosen topics. In this procedure, you can systematically arrange the proper sequence for your lyrics. If you have the so called “**writer’s block**”, the fear of not writing a song again or ideas are not coming, do not be afraid because this one does not exist. The secret is just keep on writing and push you to write. If you are thinking about what you don’t know or what to write a song about, write a song about that. Write. Just write and write. Always remember that there’s no wrong way in writing a song, it’s just whatever works for you according to **Jonathan Mann**.