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## Lyricist v Songwriter 2-4

Some of the greatest teams in musical history have consisted of an artist and his or her favorite Lyricist or Songwriter.

In many cases, Songwriters and Lyricists are also performers themselves, but who make a healthy living off selling their lyrics or complete songs to other artists.

A fantastic example of this is **Linda Perry**, who first broke into the music industry as the lead vocalist for **4 Non Blondes** but who's also written a mountain of hits for other singers. We'll take a close look at Linda's work in articles 3 & 4.

**To help you get a better understanding, here's some examples of famous lyricists and songwriters:**

### Songwriters

- Kesha is best known as a pop star in her own right, but as a Songwriter (she plays guitar and piano), she's written tracks for Britney Spears ("Till the World Ends"), Big Time Rush ("Windows Down") & even Alice Cooper ("What Baby Wants.")



Linda Perry



- **Linda Perry** began her career in '90s rock band 4 Non Blondes, but soon built a booming songwriting career on the strength of her work with stars like Christina Aguilera ("Beautiful"), Gwen Stefani ("What You Waiting For?") and Pink ("Get the Party Started").
- You might not know the name Max Martin, but you've definitely heard his work. The Swedish Songwriter and Record Producer has racked up twenty-two number one hits on the Billboard charts. He has written or co-written some of the biggest songs in pop music, including Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl," Taylor Swift's "Shake It Off" and The Weeknd's "Can't Feel My Face."
- Greg Kurstin began his musical career as a jazz pianist, and although he's a member of indie pop band The Bird and the Bee and alt-rock group GeggyTah, his six Grammy Award nominations came about because of his songwriting prowess. Kurstin has written and co-written hits for Adele ("Hello"), Lily Allen (the album It's Not Me, It's You) and Ellie Goulding ("Burn").

## Lyricists

- One of the most famous collaborative relationships of all time is that between Lyricist Bernie Taupin and Elton John. The two work separately, with Taupin writing on his own time, and then handing the lyrics over to the Singer, who then sets them to music. The list of songs this partnership has yielded is impressive, including "Rocket Man," "Candle in the Wind," and "Tiny Dancer," to name just a few.
- Before she became famous as a Singer-Songwriter, Carole King teamed up with her writing partner and then-husband Gerry Goffin to create several now-classic songs. King wrote the lyrics and Goffin composed the music for tracks like Little Eva's "The Loco-motion," The Shirelles' "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" and "Chains," which was originally written for The Everly Brothers but later covered by The Beatles.
- Early on in the band's career, Mick Jagger wrote most of the lyrics while Keith Richards handled most of the composing duties for the Rolling Stones. Over time these boundaries dissolved, but key examples include "Wild Horses" and "Beast of Burden."

**You have to know what it is that you do (songs v lyrics) - so you know who'll potentially buy your art.**

### Why the Distinction Matters:

You need to know whether what you do falls under the Lyricist or Songwriter category not only so you don't sound like an amateur - but also because you don't want to miss out on any potential career-making opportunities.

**Listen up Opal Community - Here's your chance to shine:**

<p>It's vital to represent yourself &amp; your art correctly when starting to promote yourself in competitions such as:</p> <p><b>The Opal Place Annual Lyric &amp; Song- Writing Contest (starting in 2020) BECAUSE...</b></p>		<p>...the winners of each category will be entered into the; <b>Great American Song Contest</b> - who've offered an entry to our: <b>The Opal Place winners.</b></p>
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