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Lyricist v Songwriter 3-4

Linda Perry's Dos & Don'ts For Writing Love Songs

Source of article: <https://artists.spotify.com/blog/linda-perry%27s-dos-and-don%27t-for-writing-love-songs>

The acclaimed Linda Perry songwriter breaks down the process for making the whole world sing along.

The world may be full of love songs, but those written by Linda Perry are still unique. Perry, a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame and the former frontwoman for chart-toppers 4 Non Blondes, helped bring punk to the pop charts, penning songs filled with attitude. Her love songs, on the other hand, often look inward: In hits like Christina Aguilera's "Keeps Gettin' Better" and Pink's "Don't Let Me Get Me," romantic love and self-love go hand-in-hand.

This is part of her philosophy: **A love song, Perry says, "has to stand out somewhere along the line."**

Speaking over the phone, she offered a few tips to help your songs do just that. "There's a whole world out there of kids that think songwriting is putting a beat together and singing a bunch of catchphrases," she says. "To me that's just putting a beat together and singing a bunch of catchphrases. I'm all about championing the songwriter and to really get the most that they can."

Do: Let the song be what it wants to be.

"Don't think you know more than the song," says Perry. "The song is in you, it wants you to just press record and let it play." In other words, trust the process. "You started the song, so just let it go, let it be what it wants to be. If it ends up being a dramatic song, well, hey, there's a dramatic artist out there somewhere."

"Whitney Houston's version of Dolly Parton's 'I Will Always Love You' was a great love song," Perry offers as an example. "Everybody knew the story behind that. It came from Dolly Parton, and then here's Whitney Houston singing it as an R&B singer."

Do: Follow the emotion.

Especially when writing a love song. "I like to talk to songwriters and producers and future managers and future business kids. They're always asking, 'What do you do when you get writer's block?' And I tell them that, blam, I don't get writers

block. Writer's block only exists because you're thinking. Writer's block is a thinker's problem, it's not a feeler's problem. I don't have problems writing a song ever, because I am always in my emotions."

For Perry, this means staying inside the song. "The first moment I jump up into my head I get writers block, because now I'm trying to think. What am I thinking about? Are we thinking about what's on the radio? Are we thinking about whose career to chase? Are we thinking about that person and how they wrote five songs in a row that were number one? These things have nothing to do with the creative process, so that's basically what I tell people to do: Stop thinking."

Don't: Worry about what other people will think.

That's the worst form of thinking. "That would be lesson number one, don't let someone else's opinion outweigh your own. They don't know you, they're not inside of your heart, they don't understand where the creativity is coming from."

Watch out for: **Lyricist v Songwriter 4-4** for the rest of Linda's advice

Songs written by Linda Perry

- Beautiful - Christina Aguilera
- Can't Get You Off My Mind - Michael Des Barres
- Favorite Year - Dixie Chicks
- Get The Party Started - Pink
- Hands of Love - Miley Cyrus
- I'm OK - Christina Aguilera
- Keeps Gettin' Better - Christina Aguilera
- Letter To God - Hole (L.Perry)
- Lift Me Up - Christina Aguilera
- My Love - Celine Dion
- Samantha - Hole
- The Long Way Around - Dixie Chicks
- The Thing About Love - Alicia Keys
- What's Up - 4 Non Blondes
- Wonderful Life - Gwen Stefani



Linda Perry & Christina Aguilera

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