

Classical Music Challenge



This is an exercise to find the perfect marriage between lyrics and an existing piece of music.

Even if you're not into classical music, there's a lot to be learnt about amazing melody writing from the classical masters. Many modern pop songs use the same techniques, and even the same melodies!

Exercise

- Find a piece of public domain* classical music that you love, with a strong melodic line
- Listen carefully to the piece and using prosody, decide what the story line/theme should be
- Write a lyric based on your theme, that fits the existing melody - you can also write a top line that counterpoints the original melody if you want
- Make sure your new song evokes a strong emotion in you!
- Recording: You can either sing over the existing recording or recreate the track with your own instrumentation.

Tip

Remember, just because the music is classical, it doesn't mean your lyrics should be old fashioned. Try and be contemporary with your writing and give the music a new lease of life!

***public domain music:** A piece of music with a copyright that has expired. In the UK typically 70 years from the end of the year in which the composer/author died. This means that the general public is free to use that music as part of a new composition without having to share royalties.

Have fun!