

Congratulations! You're on your way to SongStudio. Here are some things you'll want to know so that you feel as comfortable as possible when you arrive.

Participants at SongStudio cover a wide range of experience, from those who are aspiring to make a full-time career in songwriting to those who have a love for music and are interested in exploring the world of songwriting for the first time. The SongStudio community is extremely supportive and encouraging, so please let yourself feel comfortable within whatever level of experience you happen to have, and enjoy.

Workshopping Songs

The "meat and potatoes" of SongStudio are four mornings where we break off into smaller groups to work on songs. Everyone brings a song that they are working on, and receives feedback from their mentor and the participants in the group. Each morning, you will have the opportunity to choose the mentor with whom you want to workshop.

The song can be a demo on a CD or MP3 player, or you can perform it. Bring a guitar if you like. Keyboards will be provided. It may be a song you've been working on for a while, or something you just came up with recently.

You're welcome to play a song that you feel is complete, however it can be extremely useful to bring one that is still in the works, so that you can apply any feedback you get. We recommend you bring a recording device to capture the comments given for your song.

It will be extremely helpful if you bring lyrics written out and photocopied so that everyone can read along. Inexpensive photocopying can be found at several print shops in the area.

Mentor Interviews

Afternoon sessions with our mentors are like a casual interview in front of the whole participant group. The mentor being interviewed will also answer your questions, and will usually perform their own songs.

SongBird North

The SongBird North event is a Mentor Showcase concert on the first evening of SongStudio. It's a great opportunity to get to know the mentors, hear some of their songs, and to socialize with the other participants.

Mentor Speed Dating

A Mentor Speed Date is a ten-minute, one-on-one meeting with a SongStudio Mentor. Participants choose the mentor, and can play them a song or ask for advice.

Open Mics

There are four open mic events in the evenings, each taking place at a great venue in downtown Toronto. These performance opportunities are exclusively open to SongStudio participants.

The open mics are a lot of fun, and a chance to hear the creative work that the other SongStudio participants have been doing.

After Hours/Between Sessions

The participants at SongStudio are encouraged to get to know one another in between the formal sessions, and at the end of each evening. Many of the participants will be open to co-writing, and the residence lounge is typically the spot for a late-night jam almost every night of the workshop.

SongStudio Participant Showcase

On Thursday night we all head to Hugh's Room Live, one of Toronto's premiere concert rooms, to enjoy an open-to-the-public showcase of songwriters participating in SongStudio, accompanied by a live backing band featuring some of Toronto's top musicians.

SongStudio participants decide who will appear in the Hugh's Room showcase.

Co-Writing Assignments

Collaborative songwriting is strongly encouraged at SongStudio. Participants will be led through a co-writing exercise, and will be given a special opportunity to perform finished or unfinished songs for the rest of the group.

One-on-One Sessions

During the week of SongStudio, you may be able to book extra time to further workshop your songs. Ask our facilitators for more information.

For More Information

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