Bennett, J. (2012) ‘The song remains the same - why?’. Total Guitar, 228, pp. 34. ISSN 1355-5049

This version is made available in accordance with publisher policies. Please cite only the published version using the reference above.

Your access and use of this document is based on your acceptance of the ResearchSPAce Metadata and Data Policies, as well as applicable law:-
https://researchspace.bathspa.ac.uk/policies.html

Unless you accept the terms of these Policies in full, you do not have permission to download this document.

This cover sheet may not be removed from the document.

Please scroll down to view the document.
Songwriting

THE SONG REMAINS THE SAME - WHY?

“Every song is different. Different words, different chords, different melody. If parts of a song sound similar to another, the musicologists get busy and the lawyers move in. But when you think about the way songs are constructed, you might say that they have more similarities than differences.”

JOE BENNETT

Joe Bennett is the director of the UK Songwriting Festival and teaches on the Masters degree in Songwriting at Bath Spa University. Joe was Total Guitar’s Music Editor when the magazine was launched in 1994.

“...the songs that influence us have themselves evolved from other songs”

The songs that influence us have themselves evolved from other songs. The songs that influence us have themselves evolved from other songs and so on back into history, presumably all the way to the prehistoric cave gig that started it all.

As songwriters, we already subconsciously know the ‘rules’ of song form, having absorbed them through a lifetime of listening to music. Over hundreds of years of songwriting and listening, songwriters and fans alike have learned these rules and passed them on. Eventually, we’re not even aware of them – we just assume we’re going to write an intro, verse and chorus, and be finished before the egg timer pings.

“The songs that influence us have themselves evolved from other songs.”

“...the songs that influence us have themselves evolved from other songs.”

The songs that influence us have themselves evolved from other songs. The songs that influence us have themselves evolved from other songs...