



# Am I Too Old To Become A Hit Writer?

by Susan Tucker

Someone recently asked me if I thought they might be too old to become a songwriter. In my opinion you are never too old to become a songwriter. But I do think that there are some factors that you need to consider and choices you need to make.

Let's consider first what your songwriting goals are? Do you want to become a professional songwriter, writing for Tim or Faith, Celine or Ricky Martin? Or would you rather write songs for the kids and/or grandkids or maybe perform your own material at the local coffee shop? Those two very different pursuits. I'm going to address my thoughts to those of you that want to become professional songwriters because that's what I do.

\* Most singers/artists are young - under 30. And those that aren't, typically sing a "younger" lyric because the powers that be have decided that the people that buy records are young. As a songwriter, you need to write to the under thirty audience. Many years ago, I made mention of 8 track tapes in a song lyric. When my daughter asked me what 8 track tapes were, I knew I had to do a re-write to make the lyric current. So keep references to anything that might make the singer/artist sound older, out of your lyrics. Learn the language.

\* Are you willing to travel to the music centers (Nashville, Austin, L.A., or New York)? I really believe that if you are truly serious about becoming a professional writer, you have to have a presence. A few (very few) people have been able to get writing deals without having moved here, but they came to town so often that the publishers they were trying to establish a repore with, thought they lived here.

\* Are you willing to read every book on songwriting, go to every workshop and write everyday? It takes time to become a good enough writer to get a publishing deal. Realistically people who come to Nashville as good writers, can plan on it taking another few years before they become great writers and big things begin to happen for them.

\* Are you willing to find critique services and songwriting groups, where you can get feedback on your songs? You have to have this feedback. You just can't get better until you allow your songs to get heard. You have to find out what you're doing right and where you need to put extra effort.

\* Make your presence stand out through great demos. Through heavy involvement. Win some contests. (Note - build your resume)

So to sum it up, you're never too old!! You just have to work a little harder, a little faster and use some of that wisdom that age has blessed you with.

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