

# Steve and Vikki Cook

## WHAT MAKES THESE SONGS GREAT?

### I. Melody Questions

- A. What song structure did the composer implement?
- B. How many bars are in each song section (Verses, Chorus, Bridge)?
- C. What is the meter for each line of the song?
- D. Does the Chorus melody start out higher or lower than the Verses?
- E. Does the melody contain a unique hook anywhere in the song? How many bars/syllables are in the hook?
- F. How much melodic repetition was used, and where?
- G. Are the melodic and rhythmic repetitions exact, or are the phrases similar?
- H. Is the melody comprised of notes that are close to each other...2nds and 3rds, etc.? Are there pleasing, unexpected intervals in the melody?
- I. Are there varied rhythms in the different sections of the song?
- J. What is the range of the song?
- K. Is this a melody you could envision millions of worshippers to wanting to sing?

### II. Lyric Questions

- A. Does the song have an interesting title? Is the idea fresh?
- B. Does it have a universal theme? ...something that most people can relate to?
- C. Do the verse lyrics clearly lead to the title?
- D. Is there one consistent verb tense throughout the song?
- E. Are consistent pronouns used?
- F. Do the opening lines of the different sections “grab” the listener and set an emotional tone?
- G. Is there a consistent tone and style throughout the song?

- H. Are detail, action, and fresh imagery used?
- I. Is the lyric conversational, or hymn-like in style?
- J. Are there any clichés...overused phrases?
- K. Is there a lyrical hook?
- L. Is the lyric redundant anywhere?
- M. Does the second Verse add new information?
- N. Does the Bridge (if applicable) add a new angle to the song?
- O. Does each line logically flow into the following line?
- P. What is the rhyme scheme of the lyric?
- Q. When reading the lyric, does it's emotional tone match it's melodic tone?
- R. Are the words properly placed in the melody so as to preserve the proper stresses of the word? Prosody...
- S. Does the lyric, apart from the music, inspire you to worship God?

**III. Songs**

A. Blessed Be Your Name (Matt & Beth Redman)

1. Melodic Strengths

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2. Lyrical Strengths

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3. Other thoughts

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B. In Christ Alone (Stuart Townend & Keith Getty)

1. Melodic Strengths

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2. Lyrical Strengths

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3. Other thoughts

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C. Amazing Grace (John Newton-Lyrics (most) Music-New Britain, in *Virginia Harmony*, by James P. Carrell and David S. Clayton)

1. Melodic Strengths

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2. Lyrical Strengths

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3. Other thoughts

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D. Happy Day (Tim Hughes, Ben Cantelon)

1. Melodic Strengths

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2. Lyrical Strengths

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3. Other thoughts

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E. How Deep The Father's Love (Stuart Townend)

1. Melodic Strengths

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2. Lyrical Strengths

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3. Other thoughts

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