

Things to keep in mind when writing with a partner

1. Being vulnerable/open minded - what happens if you just aren't feeling vulnerable but you've already set up a session. This may be a good time to attempt storytelling or talk about something not so personal or not about your own life but a character or a friend someone you're upset about someone you're very happy about.
2. What happens if you are at an impasse? Easiest way is to put a pin in it and go to another section with plans on coming back.
3. Don't let little things hang you up "she's singing the melody wrong" or " why did he change that word I really liked that phrase" — Keep it going by keeping it positive - Here is a good example of a way to come back later. " i'm really liking this chorus but I think we could do better - I'm really feeling this line I came up with do you think it's good enough to include somewhere in the song I like it in this chorus"
4. This is not the last song you will ever write - think of it as an exercise that may or may not be a full song.
5. You can rewrite the song for your own purpose later. Don't think of this as a final version.
6. Remember this is not your song - this is a unique collaboration that may never happen again so let that sink in and allow the song to be the winner.

Co-Writing Exercise

1. Pair up with someone.
2. Each of you write 10 things on a piece of paper.
3. This could be anything but here are some ideas: One word, a clever phrase, a cliché, what you're thinking about, what you're happy about, what you're nervous about, a newspaper headline you didn't write, what color your pencil is and a word that rhymes with it, etc.
4. After giving yourself five minutes to do this - read them aloud to each other.
5. See if any of your lists match up or if you can make two of the things match up. Hopefully by now you found a subject to write about.

Things to try while writing with a partner

1. Try having one person write the verse melody and one person write the chorus melody but both work on the words- You could have the other person sing it for a fun way to mix it up.
2. One person writes the words over the other persons progression.
3. One person start out by strumming chords, the other person finds a melody and sings it - both of you work on the words.
4. Start with a chorus - make it a short phrase that repeats then a new phrase enters then comes back. Here's The Beatles version:

Let it be

