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Songwriting Workshop: Melody

Lesson 2:
Repetition Techniques for Building
Song Sections

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Exact repetition is not only the simplest development device; it's also the strongest. It is usually used in choruses. The purpose of the chorus is to get your listeners, who are not musicians, to sing along with you. The various types of repetition are the best ways I know to do this.

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Varied repetition is the easiest way to develop any idea into any song section: verse/ chorus/ bridge or verse/refrain. Once you learn how to create little variations by ear, there'll be no end to the different things you can do with an original idea.

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Internal repetition. Remember, the “song” is a very dramatic style of communication. Internal repetition will help to emphasize a lyric in a way that is only used in songs and other types of oral communication, such as plays and speeches.

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