

SING DEMOS NASHVILLE

DEMO PRE-RECORDING CHECKLIST

Here is some helpful info towards being prepared with each item needed for your recording.

PART 1 - GETTING PREPARED

1. Do you have your lyric sheet prepared with the proper structure?

See our PDF file: [Preparing your lyrics](#).

2. Is it saved in a universal file format?

Any of the following file formats are accepted: .rtf (preferred) | .doc | .docx | .txt

* We do not accept pdf files for lyrics, as we can't edit them if we need to make adjustments are adjust the sizing and flow for printing.

We DO NOT accept lyrics sent in the body of an email. We need files to forward to the vocalist, that they can print and rehearse with before your recording session.

3. Double Check For Correct LYRICS

****NOTE**** You are responsible for ensuring your lyric sheet has the correct lyrics.

More often than not, we receive work recordings that have different lyrics than the lyric sheet. As a result, vocalists may memorize the wrong words.

A. If the work recording is right, make sure the lyric sheet matches

B. If the work recording is wrong, **MAKE SURE** to **INDICATE** that to us so we can communicate to the vocalist to be aware of it.

*See our PDF file: [Preparing your lyrics](#).

4. Do you have a basic recording available that demonstrates your song's melody?

(i.e. cassette, CD or mp3 copy)

a) If you play an instrument, a recording with basic chord accompaniment with vocal melody will be adequate. Adding a chord chart or manuscript sheet will be helpful.

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b) If you do not play an instrument, are you able to sing your lyric and its melody?
Almost any cheap style of recorder will do the trick.

c) If you do not play an instrument or sing and only have lyrics - contact us for a quote if you would like to hire us to help write a melody for your song.

5. Do you have the chords written out to your song?

We generally can (and will) figure it out, but it helps ensure and clarify your correct chord progression if you can provide it.

a) If you play an instrument, write out the basic chord accompaniment on a chord sheet, tab or manuscript paper.

b) If you do not play an instrument, are you able to have someone else write out chords that will fit over your melody? (*Remember, someone writing out the chords is NOT writing your song, since the chords are only extensions of the song's melody and are suggested by the melody.)

c) If you do not play an instrument and are unable to find someone to help you with the chords, you may grant us permission to develop the chords we feel will fit best over the melody of your song.

6. Have you decided upon the final arrangement of your song?

(i.e., verse, chorus, bridge, etc.)

If you haven't, not to worry. As music producers, part of our job is to make recommendations to help you with the arrangement where we feel it is necessary. As a client, the final decision will always be yours.

7. Have you decided upon which instruments will be needed to demonstrate your song?

(i.e., guitar, piano, steel guitar, fiddle, etc.)

Will a guitar/vocal or keyboard/vocal demonstrate your song well enough? Does your song need an entire band? It's crucial that you have a vision of what your goal is with this demo.

Here are some simple guidelines:

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- a) Is your song a ballad? If so, a piano/vocal or guitar/vocal may be enough to demonstrate the quality of your song.
- b) Is your song musically simple but with rich lyrics or tells a story? If so, again, a piano/vocal or guitar/vocal may be enough to demonstrate the quality of your song.
- c) Is your song a rousing uptempo song or one that really has a groove? If so, a piano/vocal or guitar/vocal will likely not bring out the groove and beat of your song, you'll need a band.
- d) Are you trying to pitch yourself as an artist? Then this will largely depend on what kind of artist you are. A ballad singer may get by with a piano/vocal or guitar/vocal. But if you are trying to set the world on fire as a new artist, you don't need a "song" demo, you need an "artist" demo and that needs a top notch band production showcasing your unique "style and sound."
- e) If you do not know what you will need, not to worry. As music producers, part of our job is to make recommendations to help you in deciding on what instruments will bring the most out of your song. We only recommend what we feel is necessary. More is not always better; most of the time, less is more. As a client, the final decision will always be yours.

8. Have you identified the particular vocal and/or music style you are looking for with your song?

Examples of how you might explain it to us:

- a) An "Alan Jackson-style," something traditional country like "Pop a Top."
- b) Modern-rock like "Fallout Boy."
- c) I want a vocalist that sounds like "Sara Evans".
- d) A blend, like: "Carrie Underwood singing an Avril Lavigne-style song."
- e) If you do not know what to specifically reference it too, not to worry. As music producers, part of our job is to make recommendations to help in deciding on what production elements are needed to meld your song to fit into a particular style or genre, i.e., country, pop, modern rock, etc. We only recommend what elements we feel are necessary. As a client, the final decision will always be yours.

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PART 2 - SENDING US WHAT WE WILL NEED

1. THE LYRIC SHEET

According to the guidelines for legibility in the sample here: [Preparing your lyrics](#).

-Send as an email attachment in any of the following file formats: .rtf | .doc | .docx | .txt

-(DO NOT send pasted in the body of an email nor as a .pdf)

2. THE MELODY

According to the guidelines in #4 in part 1 above.

-For recordings, you may email us an mp3 or upload them via the internet.

-For written lead sheets, you may send them as an email attachment (PDF, jpg, gif, tiff, png).

3. THE CHORDS

According to the guidelines in #5 in part 1 above. *If...* you have a chord sheet *available...*

You may send the chord sheet by:

-An email attachment in any of the following file formats: .rtf | .doc | .docx | .txt | .pdf | or image file (jpg, gif, png, tiff)

4. A NOTE OF YOUR PREFERENCES

According to the guidelines in #6 through #8 in part 1 above...

Please give us your requirements in terms of arrangement, what instruments you require, the style of song, genre your song is aimed at, and any other relevant information that will help us produce your song in the way you desire.

-You may send this to us as an email or *better* -- send in a file as an email attachment (doc, docx, rtf, pdf, txt) Sending it as a single file keeps all info in one place.

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