



The
**Swan
Song**
Project

The Swan Song Project

Virtual Sessions

*Writing songs with people facing end of life.
Celebrating life, making memories and leaving legacies.*

Thank you for your interest in becoming a songwriter and being a part of The Swan Song Project. The Swan Song Project is a charity that helps people facing end of life and bereavement to write and record their own original song. Our work has primarily taken place in hospices working with patients and their family members. We are happy to now be able to offer our songwriting support virtually. This document should provide you with all of the information you need to know about the service.

Who is it for?

We are happy to support anyone facing the end of their life through terminal illness or otherwise. This has included people in early stages of a terminal diagnosis with several years ahead of them and people in their final weeks. We also work with people experiencing grief through the loss of a loved one or the anticipation of a loss. Grief can be very complicated and affect different people at different times and our aim is support you whenever you need it on your individual journey. If you are interested but unsure if it is the right time for you, please contact us via the email below and we will be happy to have an informal chat about it.

How it works:

If you would like to start on a song with us we will send out a document with some questions about what your song might be about and how it might sound. These are intended to help get the creative juices going and clarify some ideas about the song. You may already have very clear ideas and not need these prompts but as much information as you can provide makes the job of your co-writer all the easier. If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything in advance of answering these questions please email Ben at swansongprojectuk@gmail.com and he will be happy to speak to you.

When you have sent in your ideas about the song we will then be in touch to arrange a time to have a chat about them in more detail. We would usually request this to be a call over Zoom (Free Video calling program – more info below) although it could be done over the phone if you prefer. The aim of this session will be to review the song ideas and start structuring them into verses/choruses etc.



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Depending on what style of music you would like your song to be we will assign an Affiliate Artist to assist. With your permission we will share with them the plans for the song from our sessions and they will then come back with some ideas for how it might sound. Our Affiliate Artists may have to make slight changes to the lyrics to make them fit with musical ideas, when they do they will always do their best to capture the meaning as closely as possible. We can discuss any particular lyrics you want to keep exact before we send it to an Affiliate Artist.

We can then review and discuss this and feedback to the songwriter. We can repeat this process until we have a song you are happy with. If you wish to record yourself singing or speaking on the song we are more than happy to support you in doing this. We know how valuable having a recording of a loved ones voice is so we aim to make this as easy as possible. We understand how daunting it can be to record ones own voice as well though and we are perfectly happy to have our musicians sing the songs. There are various options we can discuss with this.

Once the song is finished you will be provided with it in Mp3 format and it is yours. If you would like we can share the song on our website www.swansongproject.co.uk and our social media. The choice is yours and we are perfectly happy with whichever option you choose.

Using Zoom:

Zoom is a free video calling software that we use for most of our sessions. It is safe and secure and fairly user friendly. It can be downloaded here - <https://zoom.us/signup>

When a session is arranged you will be sent a link that will open a zoom meeting at the arranged time. If you have Zoom downloaded all you have to do is click the link at the time of the meeting starting and should be directed to a call when you will be able to see and hear your co-writer.

Zoom can be used on a phone, tablet or computer/laptop.

A stable internet connection really helps with good video calls.

Wearing headphones can also help improve the quality of the calls.

Video calls can be tiring so we will try to keep them efficient and no longer than 1 hour at a time.

If you are feeling especially tired in a session please just say and we can end it early.



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There is no fee for our service but you are very welcome to make a donation to support the work further if you would like to. Public donation is a huge part of our income and allows us to continue developing what we do and allows more people to benefit from the service. All donations are greatly appreciated and can be done via the links on our website www.swansongproject.co.uk

Disclaimer:

The Swan Song Project is not a counselling service. Our songwriters are here to support you in writing a song. This can often act as a safe space to discuss and process your feelings and emotions around bereavement however the service may not be suitable for people who require a greater level of support, such as counselling or psychotherapy. If we identify that you may benefit from additional support, we will signpost these services to you. You can choose to discontinue your sessions at any point.

We can recommend Marie Curies Bereavement support line for more in depth support. They can be contacted here - <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/help/support/marie-curie-support-line>
Their Support Line is open 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday and 11am – 5pm Saturday to Sunday.
On bank holidays they are open 10am – 4pm.

We look forward to writing a song with you.

If you have any questions please email us at swansongprojectuk@gmail.com and we will be happy to answer them.

"May your heart always be joyful, may your song always be sung"

Bob Dylan