

Anyone not interested in the Golden Ticket or just wanting to experiment with writing styles for their originals are free to disregard this list. Anyone who IS interested in receiving a Golden Ticket for their original should follow the guidelines set below.

Melody

What We're Looking For

- Original melodies
- Creative melodies
- Melodies that are easy to remember
- Melodies that are not overly simple

What We're Not Looking For

- Extremely complicated melodies
- Extremely simple melodies
- Melodies that are really difficult to remember
- Melodies that sample too many melodies from other songs
- Unoriginal and boring melodies

Lyrics

What We're Looking For

- Original lyrics
- Creative lyrics
- Good storytelling

What We're Not Looking For

- Extremely complicated lyrics
- Super wordy songs
- Too many words to the point that it disrupts the song's flow
- Overly simple lyrics
- Overly plain/direct lyrics

Song Structure

What We're Looking For

- Clear song structure

What We're Not Looking For

- Overly complicated song structure
- Songs without consistent structure
- Songs that lack any sort of structure at all
- Songs that lack any sort of chorus/repetitive moment

Marketability

What We're Looking For

- Songs that are marketable
- Songs that would chart
- Songs that appeal to lots of listeners without being too similar to other songs

What We're Not Looking For

- Songs that are extremely niche
- Songs that do not appeal to a wide range of listeners

Accompaniment & Performance

What We're Looking For

- Songs that are well-done and passionately performed
- Good stage presence
- Well-played accompaniment (can be either self-accompanied or by someone else if lacking skill on instrument of choice)
- Good expression
- Accompaniment that is not overly complicated (sorry Jacob Collier)
- Interesting/creative accompaniment
- Audience engaging performance
- Accompaniment with clear intended tempo throughout
- In-time accompaniment

What We're Not Looking For

- Poorly played accompaniment
- Extremely complicated accompaniment
- Extremely simple and/or boring accompaniment
- Accompaniment that doesn't suit the song or melody
- Deadpan performance
- Uninteresting and unengaging performance
- Accompaniment with poor cadence or accompaniment that lacks clear intention

- Out-of-time accompaniment

Song Title

What We're Looking For

- Original song titles
- Creative song titles
- Song titles that are to the point without being too long
- Catchy song titles

What We're Not Looking For

- Long song titles
- Song titles that are unrelated to song content
- Song titles that don't stick