

# Songwriting Workshop with Iain Matthews

**Inn at Lathones**  
**WRITE FROM THE HEART**

I can't make you a writer in three days. But I can give you some guidelines to being one.

Write from the heart.

Anyone can write a song, but there's an art to coming up with one that has meaning and longevity.

All subjects are fair game. Diversify.

Here are a few thoughts off the top of my head, in no particular order.

- 1) Above all, be passionate about what you want to say, identify it, then say it clearly.
- 2) If you don't understand it, no-one else will either.
- 3) It's good to have role models, but you need to develop your own identifiable style
- 4) Be your own editor and ask yourself, "Is this the best I can do!!" If it doesn't turn you on, then it's probably not going to do much for anyone else.
- 5) If it doesn't feel finished, then it's probably not.
- 6) If it seems like you've heard it before somewhere, you probably have. Say it in a different way.
- 7) Sometimes a song will have a will and direction of its own. This is not a bad thing, on the contrary. Even if it doesn't follow your original train of thought. Go with it and see what you end up with.

These are just a few of the tools a professional songwriter must have. There are many more.

A final thought.

I am primarily a lyricist and would like you all to come to the workshop with either a set of lyrics in progress, or one you've been working on recently and think they might be finished. I will do the same. This gives us a place to begin and a degree of common ground.

See you there.

Iain

**Course commences on Fri at 6.30pm with a meet and greet with Iain until approx 8.00pm**  
**Saturday commences at 9.00am until 5.00pm with a break for lunch at 1.00pm**  
**Sunday commences at 9.30am and terminates after lunch at approx 1.00pm**