



Bosque School Song Collaboration!

What's happening?

Bosque School has a wonderful opportunity to have Donald Patriquin, a renowned composer, create a school song for us. He will be composing the music for a chorus and verses that will be performed by our band, choir, and strings at their first ever combined, outdoor concert this spring.

Mr. Patriquin visited the school this fall, heard the band and choir, and was so impressed he is *insisting* that students write the essential lyrics for the song!

The lyrics you write could appear in the final version of the song, or they could be combined with the ideas submitted by other students, or they might simply serve as the inspiration for Mr. Patriquin to mold your words into lyrics that capture the spirit of our school community. You should think in terms of two or more verses plus a chorus that will repeat, or, you may want to think of just a chorus which itself could become the school song. The lyrics you write can be serious or silly, and can be written in English, Spanish, Latin, or even a combination of all three. (*Please supply a translation for non-English lyrics.*)

The goal is to end up with a fantastic, really “singable” school song that says something about who we are and/or what it’s like to go to school here.

If you would like to learn more about Mr. Patriquin’s work and hear some of his music, visit his website at www.donaldpatriquin.com.

How do I get involved?

Work on your own or with a friend or teacher to compose lyrics to a song. See the back of this page for some helpful hints on songwriting, or just think about a song you like (or make up one!) and try to write lyrics that you could sing to that song. Create a nice, clean, typed (if possible) copy of your lyrics and give it to Ms.Hart. Please also send an email copy to jhart@bosqueschool.org.

What's the deadline?

We would like to receive all entries by **Monday, December 14**, so that Mr. Patriquin will have time to work on the song before the concert this spring. Don't miss this chance to collaborate and become part of school history!



Notes On Songwriting- Robin Frederick

(Although the author states “The techniques and hands-on exercises in this article can be applied to Rock, Country, Pop, and R&B/Soul”, they can be applies to all musical styles – and very much to ‘school songs’.)

LYRICS:

1. Start with a ‘title’. This acts as a springboard for lyrics. It sets a theme. Even if it is not the eventual title, it suggests what you want to say, how you feel about it...

Writing a song is a process of discovery- about what you know, what you don’t know, and about yourself. (*And about your school!*)

2. Make a list of words, phrases or images suggested by the title. Don’t ‘edit’ them – just get them down on paper – or computer.

3. Think of a structure and start writing. Robin notes that one of the most common song structures is

Verse/Chorus/verse/chorus/bridge/chorus.

Verse: same words, different music

Chorus: same words, same music

Bridge: different words, different music

The above structure is suggested for the School Song.

The repetitive ‘chorus’ would be the eventual ‘song’ while the verses (and possibly a bridge) could be added for a ‘concert’ version. The structure can be abbreviated:

Verse/chorus/verse/chorus, or just Verse/chorus, or even just Chorus.

***MELODY:** Robin goes on to talk about ‘melody writing’, which you may or may not want to read.

If anyone is inspired to write a melody or two, they should feel free to do so. (*And it should be sent to the composer!*)

Robin’s complete article - lyrics *and* music – is found at
<http://www.robinfrederick.com/write.html>

Further ‘notes’ from the composer- Donald Patriquin

Don’t worry too much about rhyme. Rhyme in music lyrics is much more flexible than in ‘traditional’ poetry.

So is phrase length. The following three phrases can be sung to very similar melodies, though they would not be considered similar in metric length poetically. They also all ‘rhyme’ with each other musically.

1. *This is so cool.* 2. *These are the things I can say to you.* 3. *Bosque, Bosque School.*

What is most important is *what* you say. Don’t get bogged down by rhyme, phrase length, meter and so on – I can take care of that! IDEAS are of prime importance.

***This being said, if you do have a flair for MELODY, i.e. song writing, go for it!**