

## Suggested Tasks

- ◆ **Get the storage device that works for you and USE it!!!!**
  - A note book in which melodic contours are recorded
  - An inexpensive digital record in which you sing or play riffs and motives
  - A pad of blank musical paper
  
- ◆ **Set writing goals.**
  - How frequently are you going to produce a tune?
  - Write outside of your comfort zone. Hate Irish music? Great. Write a jig
  - Work through each of the five techniques to learn them. AFTER you master the techniques, decide which fits best into your creative process.
  
- ◆ **Save your work**
  - Keep a file – hard copy or on computer.
  - Analyze what you have written. Takes notes on how you think improvements could be made
  
- ◆ **Analyze the melodies you like**
  - Do an analysis of the counter of melodies that you like. Figure out the harmonic movement of the piece. Understand the meter and how rhythm is used. Fully describing what you like in the work of others will prepare you to write the melodies you want.
  
- ◆ **Play with musical ideas – save the good ones**
  - Noodle on your guitar or sing random thoughts. Store the good riffs and motives for future use.
  
- ◆ **Listen to the way people speak.**
  - Record the interesting rhythms and uses of pitch and emphasis in the speech patterns of others. Keep a file and review the entries frequently to find ideas. Try the same effort with sounds of nature and machines.
  
- ◆ **After you have created a riff or motive, transform it**
  - Experiment on riffs and motives by changing their time signatures and mode. This will generate new musical ideas.
  
- ◆ **Test your melodies**
  - Find some friends who will give objective, thoughtful responses to your music. You need honest, informed feedback. You don't need a bunch of sycophants with bobbing heads. You learn by understanding what works and what fails in melody.