



# Songwriting Tips for Troubled Times

*by Susannah Long Conner*

1. **Start small.** Sometimes, the best songs spring from one image, a fragment of memory, or even a single word. When you keep the subject of a song or poem narrow, you give your mind a chance to make surprising new connections.
2. **Go deep.** Don't be afraid to explore how you really feel when you're writing a new song. No one has to see your first draft, so there's no reason to feel self-conscious. You're the only person who can tell your story and it will mean more if you let your true feelings shine through.
3. **Find a friend.** We're already living in an isolating time, maybe your creativity needs a collaborator (or ten) to get things off the ground. Call someone trustworthy and kind with whom you can set writing goals or co-write new music. Creative partnership takes patience, openness, and a sense of humor and is one of the greatest gifts we can give one another.