



**Filipino American Symphony Orchestra
Songwriting Workshop August 18 & 19, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Syllabus**

Course Description: Learn to improve your songwriting skills in this two-day intensive workshop. You will learn techniques for enhancing lyrics, creating memorable melodies and incorporating effective hooks. Each student will work one-on-one with our accomplished clinicians.

Objectives:

1. To learn and apply fundamental songwriting techniques
2. To create memorable melodies
3. To improve lyric writing
4. To create and incorporate catchy hooks

Outline:

Module 1: Basic Songwriting Techniques

1. Introductions
2. What you can expect from this workshop?
3. What makes a good song?
4. Where do I begin?
5. Three Basic Song Plots
6. Selecting Your Theme
7. Genuine Idea
8. Memorable Title
9. Strong Start
10. Satisfying Progression
11. Exercise 1: Break into 2 groups

Module 2: The Essential Lyric Framework

1. Genuine Idea: Guide Questions
2. Memorable Title
3. Strong Start
4. Satisfying Progression
5. Exercise 2: Break into 2 groups

Module 3: Lyrics

1. Adding "Furniture"
2. Substitute Phrases
3. Brain Dump Method
4. Rhymes
5. Rhythmic Patterns
6. Writing Lyrics to Rhythm
7. Strengthening Recall with Rhymes
8. Exercise 3: Break into 2 groups

Module 4: Melody

1. Writing Melodies
2. Understanding Basic Song Forms
3. Chorus, Verses
4. What makes a good melody?
5. Fundamentals in Music Theory
6. What is melody? How do you create melodies?
7. Basic Melodic patterns
8. Majors and Minors Keys
9. Chord and Chord Patterns
10. Major and Minor Chord Substitutes
11. Using Minor Substitutes
12. Exercise 4: Break into 2 groups

Module 5: Hooks

1. Building Hooks in Your Song
 - a. Instrumental Hooks
 - b. Lyrical Hooks
 - c. Rhythmic Hooks
 - d. Melodic Hooks
2. Exercise 5: Break into 2 groups

Module 6: Clinic and Performances

Clinician Bios

Jimmy Borja

Known as an award-winning songwriters' songwriter, **Jimmy Borja** writes compelling lyrics for his fresh melodies and inventive chord progressions. Borja was born and raised in the Philippines. He now calls Los Angeles home. Borja's biggest hits include "[Bukas Na Lang Kita Mamahalin](#)," interpreted by Lani Misalucha, "Sana Ngayong Pasko," the theme song of the [TV drama of same name](#), "[If the Feeling is Gone](#)," interpreted by [Kyla](#), among others. His compositions have been released on [Universal Music Group](#), [Warner Music Group](#) and [Star Music](#), among others. His works have been performed and recorded by [Sarah Geronimo](#), the [Philippine Madrigal Singers](#) and EDM DJ and producer [Armin Van Buuren](#), among others. A much sought-after songwriting clinician and mentor, Borja has conducted songwriting workshops in Nashville, Chicago, Los Angeles, and most recently in San Francisco at the 27 Annual [West Coast Songwriters Music Conference](#).

Dodjie Simon

Dodjie Simon is an award-winning and prolific OPM songwriter. He composed "[Ikaw Lamang](#)," popularized by [Zsa Zsa Padilla](#). He won Grand Prize at the 1999 Metropop Music Festival with his song "Can't Stop Loving You," interpreted by Lani Misalucha. His other awards include the Grand Prize at the [Asia Song Festival](#) with "You Lift Me Up," interpreted by Jaya, and second place at the Manila International Song Festival with "One More Time," also interpreted by Lani Misalucha. Dodjie was former president of KATHA, an organization of Filipino composers, and Vice-President of the [Filipino Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers](#) (FILSCAP) from 1995 to 2000.