

SONG WRITING

For me the lyrics of a song are the very important and this applies in most jazz standards. Like, for example, a song by the American lyricist Haven Gillespie

"You go to my head and you linger like a haunting refrain
and I find you spinning round in my brain
like the bubbles in a glass of champagne"

– that is pure poetry.

And when a musician gives me a melody and asks me if I could write lyrics to it for him, I listen to the tune and read the music at the same time. Usually there is a phrase that basically "embodies" the theme of the piece and if lyrics come to mind I continue to develop this idea, but of course always as a supplement to the melody.

When writing my own songs, I always start with a phrase.

I write a line and almost automatically think of a melody for it, then I go to the piano and write the melody down. This musical-poetic idea is then expanded and the structure of the composition comes from the lyrics.