

An open call from GriffinEd for submissions of songs:

READ ME,

a musical reading list for young readers
led by Jeff Bohnhoff, Maya Bohnhoff, and Tim Griffin
contact ReadMe@GriffinEd.org

All you filkers and writers and up-late-at-nighters,
Experienced strummers and barely-can-hummers,
Sharpen your pencils and (maybe) your wits.

We're looking for musical misses and hits
About favorite books; your songs literary
Of memorable characters funny or scary;

Settings or plots from when you were a kid
That affected you more than the boring ones did!
A kid-friendly musical reading list

Is what we are striving for; that's the gist.
Oh, and there's money! Please see below
For details and such that you may want to know.

Background

GriffinEd is an educational nonprofit (501c3) dedicated to raising academic achievement for young learners through fun educational music, regardless of ability to pay. Think "Schoolhouse Filk" and you've got the basic idea; we write, record, and share songs about stuff kids need to know for success in school and life. Our main offering is a free online library of teaching songs, searchable by grade level and subject. Please check it out at www.GriffinEd.org, where tax-deductible donations are welcome but never required.

Read Me: a musical reading list

In collaboration with Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff, GriffinEd is excited to add a new section to our online library, dedicated to fiction for young readers. We want songs about your favorite books for kids, and we can pay you; not a lot, but better than a boot to the head. Griffin Ed is also still looking for more of the nonfiction, academic-type songs we usually do. For information about that, please see GriffinEd.org -> About -> Submissions, or just email Tim@GriffinEd.org

Guidelines For Submissions

- No plot summaries please; this is not “Cliff’s Notes, The Musical.”
- Rather, your song should function as a “teaser” that captures a memorable event, character, or theme of a book in an engaging way; something like a movie trailer that will make a kid say, “I want to read that!”
- Our primary target age range for our fiction section is 8-14 years, but we will consider songs aimed at older or younger audiences. All songs need to be reasonably child-safe.
- Original tunes are preferred; tunes in the public domain are also fine. Songs written “to the tune of” something still under copyright will be considered.
- Submissions of poetry are also welcome. If we wind up turning it into a song (with your permission), you will split writing credit (and payment) with the composer.
- Songs, and the books that inspire them, should be reasonably kid-friendly or at least kid-safe. As a benchmark, figure yes to Harry Potter, no to Twilight; yes to Goosebumps, no to Stephen King; Cthulu maybe, but Silence Of The Lambs is right out.
- Books old and new are welcome, but bear in mind some of the books we loved as kids may be problematic to modern sensibilities over issues such as race or gender. These are not automatic grounds for rejection, but please take such things into account.
- We will lean toward books that have not recently been made into movies or TV shows, as our main goal is to promote reading.
- We would love for all genres of fiction, and all genres of music, to be represented.
- Please send your submissions, questions, etc. to readme@GriffinEd.org

Payment to Writers

GriffinEd pays royalties to our writers: US \$.10 (ten cents) per unit on anything we can copy and sell (CD’s etc.) and 10% of any online revenue we gain from using your song or poem. You will retain ownership of your work. GriffinEd does not sell much because most people get music on our web site for free; so rather than send you a tiny royalty payment each quarter, we will pay you an advance of \$150 for a song or \$75 for a poem if and when we choose your submission for the project. This payment is an advance on any royalties we might owe you in the future, with the understanding that GriffinEd may never earn enough from the use of your song or poem to warrant another such payment. So please don’t plan your career around this, okay?

Performers

In most cases, we will be making our own recording of your song with performers chosen by the musical directors of the Read Me project, Jeff Bohnhoff and Maya Bohnhoff. They might choose the writer to perform, but please do not be hurt if they choose someone else. If you have a truly professional-quality recording of your song we might negotiate for use of your recording, but this is unlikely.

Other Stuff

- There is no deadline. This will be an ongoing project; when we have enough songs to make an album we may burn a CD but we plan to keep the project going for as long as we keep getting good songs and raising money to produce them.
- We love you, but please do not bombard us with scores of submissions. Send us your best work!