

Songsmith – Austin
November 18, 2024 Critique Session

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:06 to 8:59 pm on Monday, November 18, 2024, moderated by Joe Strouse. We had 10 attendees and heard 10 jiggy songs in various stages of creation.

Stewart Moser began the session with his recent creation “Knicknacks”, a sweet songs about someone rearranging the stuff in his home. Cool guitar picking and great visuals - everyone enjoyed the story. Comments included some very minor lyric clarification. Nice work - thanks, Stewart!

Scott Joffe sent his song “2 Blocks Over”, a heartfelt song about the end of a relationship (using a very cool triple (yes, triple) entendre). While this song was slightly unconventional in its structure, it worked well to preserve the singer’s feeling. Comments included minor production changes - excellent, Scott- thanks!

Scott Badger provided the group with his AI-generated song “I’m Right Over Here” and this is one that will be included in Scott’s two upcoming albums. This song takes place from an available woman’s point of view trying to get the attention of a cowboy in a crowded bar. Lyric suggestions included clarifying who she’s singing to. Super, Scott!

John Stearle sent in one of his 2024 FAWM songs, “Portrait Of Julia”, describing a photo and reminiscing about Julia and the dog in the photo. John’s refrain-style song included the title in every first line. Changes were minor and included the possibility of changing the bridge to make sure it differed musically from the refrain. Thanks, John!

Mitch Lobrovich provided his jazzy song “Painted Lady” describing the singer’s curiosity with a heavily-tattooed woman. Mitch’s verses were couplets and his chorus was very different and provided great contrast. Comments included some lyric and chorus possibilities. Enjoyed it, Mitch!

GrAmy sent in their draft of “Half A Heart Like Mine”, a duet about about overcoming loss and love (another part of their play). Great emotion and feeling in this song - especially the vocal echoes. Suggestions included making the song just a little bit faster to keep the momentum going. Great job!

Bill Basinski sent his word puzzle song “Graffiti”, an AAA song about a number of different issues facing the singer. Bill’s varying visuals and images were excellent and

one comment included adding a short repetition of the title after every two verses or so to give it a little contrast. Thanks, Wile Bill!

Mary Dawson sent in Tiffany Coburn's album song (written by Mary) and a video link to "Seasons Of The Soul" a Christian song about God and love. The production was excellent and Tiffany's vocals soared - especially on certain important words. The group really liked this song - super work, Mary (and Tiffany)!

Joe Strouse provided his song-in-progress "Westbound", in which the singer describes his blind wanderlust and how life has turned out thus far. Listeners enjoyed the descriptions and identified with several parts of the song.

Our absent (but truly excellent) moderator, Christopher Meyer, sent his preliminary work recording of their Plastic-Industrial-Pop song "Brighter Place (Hey Covestro)". It was co-written with several co-workers from around the world. We're living vicariously through their studio exploits and everyone enjoyed the international accents (and sax). Have fun Chris - safe journey!

Songsmith meets three out of the four Monday nights each month. As always, Songsmith has a Salado meeting (2nd Monday of each month), the 3rd Monday for the Austin meeting, and a DFW meeting (4th Monday of each month) where your songs can be heard and you can get feedback - always free - no dues, guilt, or other obligations.

December will be our SEAHPLSACS (Seventeenth Ever Annual Holiday Pot Luck Snack and critique Session). More details coming about this individually-remote celebration!

As always, we're looking for Zoom-knowledgeable person to run the audio and visual portions for the DFW and Salado meetings. If you're interested, please contact Mary Dawson at Mary@MaryDawson.com.

We hope to see you on Monday, December 16th, 2024 or sooner!