

Songsmith – Austin
October 21, 2024 Critique Session

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:10 to 9:10 pm on Monday, October 21, 2024, moderated by Christopher Meyer. We had 11 attendees and heard 10 excellent songs in various stages of creation. The AI discussion continued with Scott Badger's latest results as well as Mitch Lobrovich's experimentation with a vocal AI software.

Stewart Moser began the session with one of his 14-songs-in-14-days (from 2012 or 2013) "You Give Me The Willies", a funny tune about (as we later learned) the singer's relationship with a dog. With great chords and cool chorus, everyone enjoyed this one. Suggestions included letting the listener know about the dog sooner. Thanks!

Mitch Lobrovich provided his draft song "Is It Too Much To Ask", a very sultry jazz tune with smoky female vocals about a relationship going wrong. This unique song transferred Mitch's vocals (via Vocalist.AI) and created a female vocal out of his. While there were a few structural comments, this is another songwriting tool. Thanks, Mitch!

Scott Badger provided the group with his AI-generated song "The Right Moment" and Udio.com AI provided the music and female vocals. This song centered on a friend's rebound from a broken relationship, with outstanding production - especially the chorus harmony. This song was a great example of mastering AI for songwriting - thanks, Scott!

Bill Sibley provided his spooky song "Skeletons", a full studio production about a warning to a love interest regarding the singer had skeletons in his closet. Very funny with some cool lyrical stops, this tune was also very entertaining (including the Munsters theme song guitar riff). Thanks, Bill!

Bill Basinski sent his hunting-blind-inspired song "I Want To Lick You Like A Lollipop", a ditty about, well, you know. While this song was rather brief, Bill's use of perfect rhymes was impressive and a few comments related to the lyrics were suggested by the listeners to make it stronger. Thanks, Bill!

Joe Strouse provided his draft song "Never Ever Never", which addressed some of the singer's important life lessons. Several very cool lyrical (and production) comments were offered. Definitely good suggestions for a re-write. Stay tuned.

GrAmy sent in their draft of “A Heart Like Mine”, a wistful plea about overcoming loss and love (another part of their play). This heartfelt song was very well done, evoking emotions and hope. Suggestions for making it stronger included some structural and tempo possibilities. Thanks, y’all!

Mary Dawson sent her song “Bittersweet” a co-write with Brian Wooten about love’s memories. This song had great vocals, melody, supporting visuals, and a very strong pre-chorus. Comments from the listeners included some minor melodic changes to support the chorus even more. Great work!

Kevin Mallory sent his song “Opens Wider”, a great rocker with cool guitar work that described the singer’s vulnerability after the end of a relationship. This well-written song (with a cool three-line bridge) left little doubt about what was going on and comments included a few very minor lyrical suggestions. Welcome back, Kevin!

John Stearle provided his rocking blues song, entitled “Taco Bell Destroyed My Asshole”, which was, well, descriptively sad. The listeners laughed (commiserated?) at/with the singer’s plight and there were several minor lyric suggestions to make this one flow better. Um, will you be creating a video, John?

Oh! Our truly excellent moderator, Christopher Meyer, will be off to Germany to record his industrial-rap song “Brighter Place (Hey Covestro)” soon! It was co-written with several co-workers from around the world. We’re very excited for him and give best wishes for a safe journey and a great time in the studio recording it!

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.

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, November 18th, 2024 or sooner!