

Songsmith – Austin
September Critique Session
September 16, 2024

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:08 to 8:49 pm on Monday, September 16, 2024, moderated by Joe Strouse. We had eight attendees and heard seven cool songs in various stages of creation. The AI discussion continued with Scott Badger's latest results as well as Joe's experience with a different AI software.

Scott Badger started the session with his AI-generated song "You're A Person Of Interest" in which Scott provided the lyrics in this detective song while Udio.com AI provided the rest. As in previous songs, the production was outstanding and while the listeners liked this song, a few minor lyrical suggestions were offered. Thanks, Scott!

Scott Joffe sent his song "Good Time", a feel-good song about romance in a Brooklyn, NYC park with a wonderful rhythmic contrast between the verse and chorus (and bridge). This laid-back song had an overall vibe that was smooth and easy and potential lyrical changes were very few. Nice work, Scott!

Mitch Lobrovich continued this month's session with his draft song "Beneath A Quiet Sky", a tribute to 9/11 firefighters who died in New York, inspired by a documentary Mitch had seen. With great descriptions and feel, this wonderful tribute was heartfelt by all and a few minor possible lyric changes were offered. Super, Mitch - thanks!

Mary Dawson sent her song "One and Only" a co-write describing the singer's amazement after finding the "right one". The group enjoyed the somewhat retro feel (think Yamaha DX-7) and the genuine feel. Comments included a few minor lyric changes to contrast the sections a bit more but overall, very very nice work!

Wayne Willingham provided his song "A Little More Time" a rough (but well-done) studio demo which described how the singer has anticipated life in different ways throughout the singer's lifetime. The group liked the work and provided only a few possible lyrical changes for Wayne to consider. Cool, Wayne - thanks!

GrAmy sent a one-minute AI-generated video for the intro to their play - beautiful rolling clouds, blooming flowers, water (and more) behind Greg's smooth opening narration. Everyone was impressed with the work thus far and agreed that this was a very good start to the play. Awesome, - thanks!

Joe Strouse provided his song “Tom Waits”, a tribute to one of Joe’s favorite songwriters/entertainers (in throaty imitation voice) and incorporated the non-rhyming optional challenge from August. A few minor lyrical comments were offered.

Joe also discussed Shoom - a phone-operated AI song generating program and its limitations. Joe also reviewed an example of his basic lyrics that Shoom manipulated and the result, with a female singer’s voice. As with Scott’s song, the results were interesting and gave the song a totally different dimension. An excellent discussion ensued and there was some agreement that while AI is inevitably getting better, it remains an interesting tool for songwriters.

Finally, Wayne played his song “One Day”, a vocal-driven tune that he created during a long road trip. Wayne also discussed how time alone in a car gave him opportunity to write and re-write the song as he drove along including Siri’s misinterpretation of his dictation - with interesting results.

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, October 18th, 2024 or sooner!