

Songsmith – Austin
December Critique Session
December 18, 2023

The Songsmith – Austin November Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:17 to 8:51 pm on December 18, 2023. We had nine Zoom attendees and heard nine great songs in various stages of creation. We also showed our snacks/libations for SEAHPLSACS (Sixteenth Ever Annual Holiday Pot Luck Snack and Critique Session), and shared the results of our optional song title-writing challenge.

Mitch Lobrovich started the session with a re-write of his song “What’ll I Do”, a lovely piano-vocal ballad with a female singer providing outstanding emotion. Everyone liked this song and most of the comments were relating to lyrics - such as having a bit more backstory and checking the rhyme scheme. Great progress, Mitch - thanks!

Joe Strouse brought his faux adult-pop-contemporary song “Never. Never”, describing how the end of a tempestuous relationship had really ended. The group provided several lyrical suggestions for making the song more interesting - perhaps with a twist.

Scott Joffe brought a re-write of his song “Broken Arm”, which describes the singer’s thus-far difficult efforts to have a normal/satisfying life. Scott did a great job honing the lyrics and only a couple of very minor elements to consider were offered from the listeners. Outstanding, Scott- thanks!

John Stearle sent in “Everything For You” a very humorous love song with the singer graphically describing a critical impediment to fulfilling the love interest’s every wish, as only John can do. Comments included describing what else the singer could do, as well as possibly not having a resolution for this song. Thanks, John!

Bill Basinski provided his protest song homage to “White Christmas”, entitled “I’m Dreaming Of A Clean Coal Christmas”, using the original melody and describing the improbability of that happening. The listeners enjoyed it a provided several comments, including adding many more verses that the two provided. Great start Bill!

Kevin Mallory email his song “Somewhere”, a rock ballad describing the difficulties in a relationship where the singer wants to know where it’s going next. Kevin’s frequent use of the title was not overdone and nicely drove home the angst (What? Angst in a Kevin Mallory song??). We want to know, too, Kevin - good work!

Chris Meyer provided his newest tune “Brighter Place (Hey Covestro)”, which was solicited by his employer for an upbeat singable (and memorable) rock song. Totally succeeding in this assignment, Chris’ melodies - especially the choruses - were simple, yet stellar. Comments were very positive - you deserve a raise, Chris!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy) continued another song from their rock opera with “If I Close My Eyes”, in which Amy did the heavy lifting with a perfectly-set emotional delivery as the song’s intro. Wow. Everyone felt the emotion of this effort (as well as her and Greg’s singing) - we all want to know how things turn out! Thanks, Y’all!

Stewart Moser sent his song “Titles”, a poppy, Beatlesque lament about the singer struggling to come up with song titles, per last month’s optional assignment. This totally enjoyable ditty was appreciated by all and there were no suggestions for making this one stronger - outstanding work, Stewart!

We shared some very interesting generated song titles from last month’s optional title-creating challenge. There were many creative ideas that emerged as future song possibilities. Having said that, next month’s optional challenge (or for FAWM - thanks Kevin!) is to actually write a song with one of the titles we created.

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 maven 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, January 15, 2024 or sooner!