

Songsmith – Austin  
June Critique Session  
June 20, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:10 pm to 9:00 pm on June 20, 2022 and moderated by tech wizard Chris Meyer. We had nine Zoom attendees and heard eight great works in progress.

Michael Wesley Stinson started the session with “Morning Rain”, a well-crafted song about unrequited love supported by some very cool descriptions. The group really liked this song and offered a few very minor lyric suggestions to strengthen the song. Great work, Michael - thanks!

John Stearle submitted a co-write with Greg Livingston and John Evans, entitled “Teardrop Moon”, a very good song about regret, relating to love. This song was serious and Greg’s vocals stood out well. Comments included adding some more title repetition and a minor rhythm change. Super work, y’all!

Scott Badger sent in his cool country/rock tune “I’m Right Over Here”, which described an introvert’s romantic attraction to another while at a bar. Scott’s use of great lines (and novel structure) kept this song fresh and interesting. There were a few minor suggestions concerning the ending, but overall, another hit from Mr. Badger – thanks!

Kevin Mallory submitted “Frostbite”, a wintry change to the current temperatures and a great metaphor for the singer’s personal issues. Great ABBAC verses and descriptions as well as that patented Kevin sound, the group enjoyed this nicely crafted tune and offered only a few suggestions. Great work, Kevin!

Stewart Moser sent “Velociraptor”, a song about personifying humans as the ancient beasts (or current beasts, if you’re a Jurassic Park fan). With great, great melodic lines in the chorus and the usual smattering of cool Stewart chords, this tune was very enjoyable and listeners offered only a few changes – thanks, SB!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy) sent in their soon-to-be-released TikTok duet tune “Where’s My Lovebug”, which describes both singer’s search for Mr. and Ms. Right. The group enjoyed this song and comments included shortening the guitar solo intro and fewer verses where possible. Fun song, y’all - thanks!

Joe Strouse sent in “Soon”, a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time lullaby for the singer’s grandson’s impatience about an upcoming trip (or as Stewart said, a response to “Are we there yet”). There were a few minor lyric/description suggestions offered to make the song stronger.

Mary Dawson provided her and Bruce Greer’s co-write (and commissioned) Christian song “Blessed Hope”. This song’s production was bold and outstanding (great vocal pipes!) and described hope in salvation for the dying. Comments were few but everyone seemed to enjoy the production. Nice work, y’all!

Songsmith meets three out of the four Monday nights each month. As always, Songsmith has a Salado meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month), the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday for the Austin meeting, and a DFW meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month) where your songs can be heard and you can get feedback - always free.

As always, we're looking for Zoom-knowledgeable volunteer 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](mailto:Mary@MaryDawson.com).

We hope to see you on Monday, July 18, 2022 or sooner!