

Songsmith – Austin
September Critique Session
September 19, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:03 to 9:32 pm on September 19, 2022 and moderated by the effervescent Chris Meyer. We had ten Zoom attendees and heard ten excellent works in progress.

Stewart Moser was chosen to start the session with his song “Lost My Calluses”, a very Stewart-like tune about not playing guitar near enough and trying to get back into it. The group very much enjoyed his lyrics (that even included John Stearle!) and very interesting chord choices. Thanks, SB!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy) sent in “The Cure”, a serious description of finding what is missing in one’s life (or in a relationship). With great vocals (as always), this heartfelt song touched the listeners. Comments included a few lyrical/structural changes, but a great start, nonetheless!

Scott Badger sent in a re-write of “You Happened”, a wonderfully titled song about falling in love. Great lyrics and original descriptions helped make this song soar. Suggestions included re-thinking the chorus and contrasting it some more with the verses. Great re-work, Scott – it’s coming along well!

Michael Wesley Stinson sent “Troubled Waters Flow”, an earnest song about the singer’s perceived mistakes and dealing with significant difficulties in life. Michael’s great images and metaphors really helped elevate this contemplative song. The group provided a few minor lyric suggestions for his hard work. Thanks, Michael!

Mitch Lobrovich sent his song “Simmer” in response to the recipe optional song challenge from this past July. Mitch’s very jazzy song (a la Crusaders/Joe Sample) cooked nicely and the innuendos (and simmering female vocals) helped support the song’s title deliciously. Only a few small comments were offered – nice work, Mitch!

Joe Strouse sent in “The Wagon Wheel”, a ¾ time description about being in a surprisingly uncomfortable public situation and dealing with the pathway out of it. Comments included a few lyrical changes to strengthen the song.

Brenda Merz send a first draft of “An Ordinary Day”, a heartfelt song about the shock of an active shooter situation and maintaining strength through faith. The hook was absolutely perfect and the listeners we all affected by the sentiment in this wonderful tune. Wow, Brenda - thanks!

Scott Joffe provided a re-write of his song “It Feels Right Here” an upbeat song about change in one’s life and possibly (finally) finding the right place to be. This song had a great groove which everyone appreciated and suggestions for potential changes were few. Great re-writing, Scott – thanks!

Chris Meyer played his song “Water From The Sun”, which described the singer’s feeling of life’s heaviness (and loneliness) including the singer wondering if others feel the same way. This song affected the listeners and several lyrical suggestions were offered in order to make this song even more effective. Thanks, Chris!

Mary Dawson sent in “When Seasons Start To Change”, a beautifully produced song about bittersweet memories in remembering someone when seasons change. Comments from the group included a few possible changes to Mary’s wonderful lyrics. Great work, Mary – thanks!

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 or other financial obligations.

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

We hope to see you on Monday, October 17, 2022 or sooner.