

Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session
Monday, November 16, 2020

The Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session was held via Zoom (moderated by sooner-to-be Florida's most-excellent Tara Heflin) from 7:04 pm to 8:49 pm. We had 11 Zoom attendees and heard 7 excellent works in progress.

Michael Wesley Stinson again started the session with a home demo version of his re-written song "I Wanna Be Willin'", which described the singer's desire for change in life. The listeners offered a few comment for this potential country/gospel crossover song that had great images. Super, Michael!

Stewart Moser sent his song "It's Never Over" – a lament concerning the seemingly never-ending election results. This was very reminiscent of The Stones and XTC (and Beatles, of course). Comments from the group were minor and included a few beat/pronunciation suggestions. Very enjoyable, Stewart!

John Stearle once again provided a funny video for his song "Fart Free Zone", an ode to, well, you know what. John's images were, as usual, fast, funny and many. The group enjoyed this and while the discussion became a bit tangential, a few potential changes were offered. Rock on, John – thanks!

Greg Livingston sent his re-worked song "Bluer Than Sky" which described the singer's reassurances from doubt. Greg made quite a few changes from the September critique and the group appreciated the result. Comments included production/vocal possibilities to keep the listener engaged. Great work, Greg!

Joe Strouse sent his song "Booty Coffee", describing the possible consequences of dancing while holding a cup o' Joe. Suggestions included making it a bit edgier and making a vocal distinction between the verses, chorus, and the bridge.

Scott Joffe provided a guitar vocal demo of his song "Someone Else's Lie", which beautifully described the moment of stark realization in a relationship. Scott's choruses were (as usual) well crafted and very catchy. There were only a few possible changes suggested from the listeners. Outstanding work, Scott!

First-timer Mike Dooley provided a recording of his song-in-progress, entitled "Can't Take Any More", describing problems in a relationship. Mike's appropriately sparse verse lyrics helped emphasize the (more wordy) choruses. The group really like this song and provided a few suggestions – thanks, Mike and welcome!

As an update, Songsmith Founder Mary Dawson and her wonderful husband Dave have been affected by Covid-19. Mary's home, slowly recovering but Dave is still in the hospital and while he has apparently stabilized, we're all hoping and praying for their recovery and return to great health.

Due to the pandemic, our Thirteenth Ever Annual Holiday Pot Luck Snack and Critique Session (TEAHPLSACS) will be held remotely (yes, bring your own at home) on Monday, December 21st, 2020. If you'd like to be included next month, please contact Tara Heflin (tara.incognito@gmail.com) and send her your lyrics (Word format, please) and if you'd prefer that we hear a recording, please also send an mp3 of your song before 4 pm on Monday, December 21st.

See you on Monday, December 21st!