

Songsmith – Austin
February 17, 2025 Critique Session

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:11 to 8:51 pm on Monday, February 17, 2025, moderated by Joe Strouse. We had nine attendees and heard eight most excellent songs in various stages of creation.

Stewart Moser started this month's session with "Fun Facts", a sweet valentine song about love which was a lot of fun - including the term "billet-doux"(love letter). With great chords and a soaring chorus melody, everyone enjoyed this one. Comments were minor, with a slight phrasing change to the last line of the chorus. Thanks, Stewart!

John Stearle provided "She Was Too Good Looking", an observation about a beautiful woman who did awful things in murdering her husband and the singer in this song laments how prison has changed her, for the worse. Comments were very positive and suggestions were few. Great storytelling, John - thanks!

GrAmy sent in "Hallejula", the opening music for their upcoming play about Tristan and Estrella. This song was slow and thoughtful - perfect for opening credits, titles, etcetera. While everyone enjoyed the feel of this song, there were very few changes suggested. Very nice work, y'all - thanks!

Bill Basinski sent in his protest song "Pretty Shitty Putty Colored Car", describing the singer's disdain for new car colors and how they've been influenced by politics. This song was well constructed and the chorus was quite memorable. There were also a very few minor lyrical suggestions offered. Super, Bill!

Sara Seven popped in from Belton and sent her song "The Gay Card", describing a bartender's view of an attention-getting performer and fend off would-be suitors. Sara's take on this happening was fresh and kept everyone's interest. Comments were very positive and everyone appreciated her songwriting chops - thanks!

Mike Couch sent in his tune “Broken Bridges”, which describes trying to atone for lapses in relationship judgement. This song had great descriptions and story which the group had a few lyrical suggestions for making this one stronger. A very enjoyable song and the unpredictable resolution was nice. Thanks, Mike!

Chris Cavello (welcome back!) shared his song “Somebody To Me”, a heart-wrenching ode to a homeless person’s relationship with the singer. This work had great descriptions and story progression. Comments included a few lyrical possibilities for the bridge and song ending. Great work, Chris - welcome back!

Mary Dawson provided a link to a poignant Janis Ian song “At Seventeen” as performed live on the first episode of Saturday Night (Live). While we couldn’t access the song, there was a significant discussion about her presence and vulnerability in this performance. Thanks, Mary!

Joe Strouse provided his #3 FAWM song “Chances Are Good”, in which the singer describes meeting a possible love interest. Comments included some possible changes to the choruses and some story clarification.

An optional songwriting challenge for March is to write something relating to St. Patrick’s Day.

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, March 17th, 2025 or sooner!