

Songsmith – Austin
January Critique Session
January 17, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom (moderated by still-so amazing Tara Heflin) from 7:12 pm to 8:46 pm on January 17, 2022. We had eight Zoom attendees and heard six excellent works in progress.

Joe Strouse started the session with his song “Pyrex Tempered”, a song comparing the singer’s ability to take only oh-so-much heat before exploding. Comments included making the bridge stronger as well as continuing internal rhymes.

Stewart Moser sent “What I Like”, an upbeat song about suggested changes to the singer’s lifestyle, based on constructive comments from a loved one. With Stewart’s cool chords, listeners noted that the sarcasm in this tune could’ve been reinforced sooner (or perhaps stronger). Great rhymes, too - excellent work, Stewart!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (a/k/a “Grammy”) sent in their revised version of one of Greg’s previously critiqued songs, entitled “Heart On Fire” with Amy singing as the ever-restless Desiree. The group really liked this revision and comments included some point of view checking. Super, y’all – thanks!

Scott Badger sent his song, “Wasting Away” a re-write of a song he wrote a few years ago, describing how the singer is not doing well after a significant other has moved on. With great chords in the chorus, this song was very well constructed. Suggestions included some detailed verse descriptions, but overall another fine job from Scott.

John Stearle kept us in suspense with his song “Two Peas In A Pod”, based on a couple commenting on each other’s bodily habits a little too much... John’s images were, as always, vivid and a comment was made about checking each of the the verse meters for consistency. We’re waiting for the video, John- thanks!

Mary Dawson brought a copy of her co-write with Bruce Greer, entitled “Sticks and Stones”, which described how words can actually hurt people. Great lyrics (with some very cool rhymes) helped this song develop well. Lyric comments included checking one of the chorus lines which went too quickly to notice the clever alliteration. Great work!

Finally, if you’re interested in participating, we’ll be doing the February FAWM (February is Album Writing Month) challenge - creating 14 new songs in 28 days. Please contact Joe (Strousongs@gmail.com) if you’re interested in joining this annual challenge.

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 for free. Please send your lyrics (Word format,

please) and your mp3 to Tara Heflin (tara.incognito@gmail.com) before 4 pm (Central time).

We're looking for Zoom-knowledgeable volunteer to run the meeting (audio and visual) for the DFW meeting. If you're interested, please contact Mary Dawson at Mary@MaryDawson.com.

We hope to see you on Monday, February 21, 2022 or sooner!