

Songsmith – Austin
August Critique Session
August 15, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:10 pm to 8:50 pm on August 15, 2022 and moderated by the amazing Chris Meyer. We had nine Zoom attendees and heard eight great works in progress.

Michael Wesley Stinson started off the session with his song “The Promise”, a love song describing the singer’s heart-on-his-sleeve devotion. With great guitar picking and moving lyrics, the listeners made a few minor suggestions concerning rhymes and chords. Regardless, another outstanding work from Michael – thanks!

Scott Badger sent in his nicely-produced song “A Matter Of Trust”, describing relationship issues from the perspective of the singer toward a potential loved one. This song had a cool rocking ELO flavor and very thought-provoking lyrics. Comments included some small lyric considerations. Great song, Scott!

Stewart Moser sent in another of his 2011 songs, entitled “You And Me And That Other Thing” another stream-of-consciousness song about an unsettled relationship. The group had some challenges understanding what was going until he provided a basic explanation. Great chords, as always – thanks, Stewart!

John Stearle sent his song “ED Blues” about the singer’s inundation with spam and other growing concerns (and a funny twist at the end). The music was very reminiscent of Captain Beefheart or Frank Zappa and of, course, very funny. Suggestions included a bridge with slightly different music to change the sound a bit. Nice work, John!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy) sent in “Neon” another of their upbeat songs about falling (and being) in love. With great rhythm and cool guitar work, comments from the listeners included an appreciation for the many clever internal rhymes and descriptions. Y’all are on a roll!

Joe Strouse sent in “Recipe”, (based on this month’s optional writing challenge) a jazzy lounge tune about cooking as a metaphor for love. Suggestions included a few lyrical changes to make the song even more sensual.

Brenda Merz also completed the optional challenge with her tune “Run Cake (Jamaica Style)”. This true recipe song described the singer’s enjoyment for making rum cake, including the process. Very enjoyable, and comments included a few structural changes that could possibly make this song into a round. Super work, Brenda – congratulations!

Mary Dawson sent in her co-write with Brian Wooton entitled “Love Knows”, a super mid-tempo county tune about reassurances that occur with love. The listeners really enjoyed this son and there were a few minor lyrical suggestions which could definitely make the song tighter. Great work, y’all – 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, September 19, 2022 or sooner!