

Songsmith – Austin
March Critique Session
March 21, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom (again moderated by Joe Strouse) from 7:10 pm to 9:12 pm on March 21, 2022. We had ten Zoom attendees and heard eight great works in progress.

Kevin Mallory started this evening's session with his song "Impression", which addressed the interpersonal rift between currently-polarized groups of people. With great verse images and rhymes, the chorus stood out nicely. Comments varied but included some lyric/background possibilities. Thanks, Kevin!

Michael Wesley Stinson sent in his song "Get Lucky", a ballad about a failed relationship and the angst related to repairing it. The simple guitar/vocal demo gave great impact to this well-written song and the listeners offered a few lyric changes to address point of view and to help it follow through with Michael's intent. Nice, Michael!

Stewart Moser sent "Blue Nation", a song about the current political discord. With a great (and memorable) chorus, which everyone commented on, this song was well written. These comments included a little more repletion of the chorus's first line melody and checking the verse line stresses. Cool, Stewart – thanks!

Wheaton, IL's very own Chris Meyer sent in one of his FAWM tunes, entitled "You Never Know", an ode to his children about life's difficulties and undying family support. This was a very heartfelt song (and demo) which listeners added a few lyrical suggestions, and inspired a discussion concerning parent's support. Great work Chris!

Joe Strouse provided "Wooden Teeth", a FAWM song/corny ode to George Washington, Martha, and Benedict Arnold. Comments included some lyrical changes to continue the song's humor and make it palatable for 8th graders.

John Stearle sent in his song "Our Love", a seriously (!) romantic tune sung by Greg Livingston with guitar by Mike Dooley. With great production, it had an outstanding chorus and killer images. Suggestions included some chorus repletion and some phrasing consideration. Super song, John – thanks!

Scott Badger provided his jazzy tune, "No Man", which described the singer's love and appreciation for a very significant other. As usual, Scott's lyrics grabbed the listener with wonderful images. Comments included adding another chorus and perhaps shortening the bridge a bit. Wow, Scott – outstanding work!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (a/k/a "Gramy") sent in their song "Dance In The Dark", an intimate description about meeting a new love at a club. Their sung/talking parts and harmonies were totally enjoyed by everyone. Suggestions included checking some of the vocal pacing and the last chorus line. Another great collaboration!

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.

We're looking for Zoom-knowledgeable volunteer to run the meeting (audio and visual) 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, April 18, 2022 or sooner!