

Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session  
Monday, November 18, 2019

The Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session was held in the conference room of Congregation Beth Israel on Monday, October 21st from 7:04 to 9:14 pm. We had six attendees and heard six wonderful works in progress.

We started the meeting with a brief discussion (and ensuing *optional* challenge for December) of creating choruses. Again, chorus creation includes title repetition, as Steve Miller does in “Rockin’ Me”, “Dance Dance Dance”, “Take The Money And Run”, and “Fly Like An Eagle”. Of course, the optional challenge for December is to create a song with a three (or four) line repetition chorus. Piece of cake!

Next month, we’ll meet on Monday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm for our 12<sup>th</sup> Ever Annual Holiday Pot Luck and Critique Session (TEAHPLACS) to celebrate the impending holidays. Attendees are encouraged to bring a *small* amount of treat(s) to share. Perhaps, John Stearle will again bring his famous egg nog...

Mitch Lobrovich started the session with a partial recording of his song “Cabin in the Woods” - a relationship story that has seen better days. Mitch’s verse lyrics were very descriptive and the chorus (yes, per the optional writing assignment) was strong. Comments included encouragement for Mitch to finish this one. Nice work!

Stewart Moser played his ukulele and sang “Humahumanukanukaapua’a”, a quirky song about a pig-nosed fish found in Hawaii. This song was very well written/performed and the chorus was very strong (per the optional writing assignment). The group really like this one and offered only a few lyrical changes. Mahalo, Stewart!

Scott Joffe played guitar and sang his newest creation “The Wrong Train” – a beautiful angst-filled song about being unsure of things in life. Scott employed images and expertly used unbalanced phrasing to reinforce the sentiment. Comments included only a few lyrical changes. Wow, Scott – great!

Greg Livingston played a recording of his song “Forever And A Day”), a strong-grooved tune about reassuring a loved one that they’re not alone. This song also had a strong chorus filled with great title repetition (per the optional writing assignment). The group offered a few minor lyrics and phrasing change. Great job, Greg!

Long-absent John Stearle brought a recording of “A Woman Stuck In A Man’s Body”, an angsty rocker about, well, you know. Gia’s vocals really helped this song soar and the group’s comments included some structural changes to the lyrics as well as a few additional musical changes relating to phrasing. Thanks, John!

Joe Strouse brought a recording of his most recent tune, “The Arms Of Time” (also using the October optional writing assignment), a lament about how memories of friends fade in time. Comments included some small lyric changes to the bridge and the overall verses.

Again, the December optional writing challenge is to create a song with a three (or four) line repetition chorus.

AND – don't forget the 12<sup>th</sup> Ever Annual Holiday Pot Luck and Critique Session (TEAHPLACS). Again, attendees are encouraged to bring a *small* quantity of treat(s) to share.

And as always, the Songsmith - Austin monthly critique session meets on the third Monday of each month in the most excellent and spacious conference room at Congregation Beth Israel, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78756. It's located on Shoal Creek Blvd, just north of 38th Street (near Central Market, Seton Hospital, etc...), and just west of Lamar. Our next session is Monday November 18th. We hope you can join us!