

## **Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session Monday, April 15, 2019**

The Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session was held in the conference room of Congregation Beth Israel on Monday, April 15th from 7 to 9:00 pm. We had eight attendees and heard seven diverse works in progress. And we enjoyed some veggies.

We started the meeting by reviewing metaphoric adjective-noun collisions and then developing two sentences using the most interesting pair – some very interesting results.

Mitch Lobrovich started the critique session with an accompanying video of his newest song entitled “Terror In A Tuk Tuk”, which chronicled his recent ride in a small vehicle while working in India. This well-done song was very funny (including the video) and the group really enjoyed this one. A few of the comments suggested a more-clichéd approach for greater appeal. Cool, Mitch!

Michael Stinson played guitar and sang his song “You’re Not Coming Home”, which lamented a loved-one’s death. This very well-constructed song (great melody) did a good job of capturing the emptiness of loss. Comments from the group included a few lyrics to clarify who the singer was singing to and suggesting a few more details. Nice, Michael!

Stewart Moser played his most-recently-written tune, entitled “Soft And Clean”, a lament about how life has changed with the general loss in public civility over recent years. Stewart’s examples and chords were very good and the listeners recommend exploring some minor changes to the verse order, including title repetition, and keeping the lyrics colloquial. Great start, Stewart!

Newcomer Cedar Branches performed his song “Teetering”, accompanied by his laptop. This partially spoken word (and heartfelt) work was from the point of view of a singer undergoing a very stressful time, directed toward a loved one. Comments from the listeners were few but included balancing the vocals and music. Nice work, Cedar – welcome!

Joe Strouse brought a recording of one of his 52- week tunes, entitled “Waves Fade”, a lament that an idyllic day at the beach wasn’t going to last. The group suggested some more internal rhymes, additional instruments and backing vocals, and some lyrics changes.

Greg Livingston played a recording of his song, “Bad Love” which described how the singer was proclaiming his love to another. Greg’s use of title repetition was excellent, as well as the double-entendre in his chorus. Listener’s comments included some very minor lyric work and really liked this song. Great job, Greg!

John Stearle closed the session with a recording of his song “Bitchin’ In The Kitchen”, another in a series of songs for an upcoming play that John is developing. This very humorous song described a waitress’s reaction to rude customers. The group’s suggestions were few and included a bit more of verse development. Go John, go!

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, May 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join us!