

Songsmith – Austin
May Critique Session
May 16, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:08 pm to 8:51 pm on May 16, 2022. We had ten Zoom attendees and heard seven well-crafted works in progress. The optional writing assignment was to write a song with the title of a street where the writer has actually lived and the story should not be true.

Stewart Moser sent “Mykawa Road”, his response for the optional May writing assignment. This song describes life along an idyllic street, including a love interest. Great chords and very visual story, Stewart hooked the listeners in with memorable childhood items that seemed to be universal and internal rhymes. Great work, Stewart!

Michael Wesley Stinson sent in his song “Home”, a beautifully composed tune about the things that the singer misses about home during an extended absence and life’s ups and downs. Comments included a few very minor lyric changes and bridge questions were hopefully answered. Super writing and performance, Michael!

Joe Strouse sent in “Chateaux Drive” in response to this month’s challenge, describing the singer’s need to get back home during an upsetting gig. Comments flowed with great suggestions for making the song even stronger.

John Stearle submitted “It’s Ripping Us Apart”, a humorous song (!) which described the singer’s inability to understand a love interest’s dislike of a *particular* quality of the singer. With great production, typically John lyrics and vocals, the listeners provided several comments and clichés for John to make this song *stronger*. Thanks, John!

Scott Joffe sent in his touching song “Every Time”, which described the pain in letting go of a relationship. Great picking/strumming patterns in the verses and choruses, Scott’s vocals really helped make this song so poignant. Suggestions from the listeners were few (mostly lyrical), but this one’s definitely a keeper, Scott – thanks!

Scott Badger provided his jazzy cool tune, “Undercover Agent”, which described the singer’s (an informant’s) increasing attachment to an a female agent assigned to protect him. Several questions concerning the story were raised and the group provided a few lyrical possibilities to strengthen the song – novel idea, Scott!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy) sent in their club duet tune “Maserati”, which describes the female singer as a fine-tuned car. And more. Greg said that this song was recycled from a 20-year old tune he wrote and they nicely repurposed. Great ad-libs and innuendoes peppered this song, which the group enjoyed – 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.

The June 13 Songsmith - Salado meeting will be on Zoom but will also meet once again (after 2+ years!) at the Salado Library from 7 pm – 9 pm. We hope that you can join us!

We're still looking for Zoom-knowledgeable volunteer to run the audio and visual portions 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, June 20, 2022 or sooner!