

Songsmith – Austin
January 20, 2025 Critique Session

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:11 to 9:19 pm on Monday, January 20, 2025, moderated by Mr. future MBA himself, Chris Meyer. We had 10 attendees and heard 9 most excellent songs in various stages of creation.

Stewart Moser started the session with “Chaos”, a cool (and rocking) protest song with a great (and memorable) chorus. This song was very well done and by the relative lack of suggestions (music and/or lyrical) for making it stronger, it was a song that resonated with all of the listeners. Excellent work, Stewart - thanks!

Greg Livingston sent in a revision of his long-ago co-write with John Stearle, entitled “Rising Star”, describing the singer’s appreciation of and devotion to a dear one. Comments included some minor production and lyrical improvements to keep the story’s momentum going. Great work, y’all - thanks!

Kevin Mallory sent in his song “Easy Choice”, which described the choices that life has to offer for assaulted women. This powerful and well-written song distinctly had effectively few rhymes in the verses and some rhymes in the choruses. Suggestions included a bit of structural change to keep the flow. Super, Kevin - thank you!

Scott Badger provided the group with his AI-assisted (and re-written) song “You Happened”. This blues tune’s production was outstanding - right out of a juke joint - and everyone enjoyed it. Comments were few but one included a slight change to the end of the chorus to repeat the title just a bit more. Wow, Scott!

John Stearle provided “You Blue-Eyed Son”, a folk ode in the style of much of Bob Dylan’s amazing 60s work. Clearly Bob Dylan biographical, the group also enjoyed this song and provided several suggestions for strengthening the lyrics/flow, as well as a production suggestion or three. We want more like this, John! Thanks!

“Wile” Bill Basinski sent a rough draft of his song “Because You Can’t Let Go!”, describing the singer’s frustration with a familial relationship and the singer getting a load off of his/her mind. There were a number of great suggestions (mostly lyrical) for making this one stronger. Great start, Bill - keep it going!

Mitch Lobrovich sent his AI-assisted song, entitled “Livin’ Not Hopin’”, with an amazing female voice that sounded like Kacey Musgraves. Mitch used Suno for this song that describes a sudden realization - after getting out of one’s comfort zone and traveling the world. There were several lyrical comments and all told, a great start, Mitch - thanks!

Joe Strouse provided a draft of his January challenge song “Warrior” - how a single mom is a warrior and is driven to make the most out of life, regardless of the hardships. Suggestions included several lyric considerations in order to better explain the story..

Mary Dawson sent in her cowrite with Brian Wooten, entitled “We’ll Deliver it All”, a musical jingle/commercial using what’s on the side of Amazon delivery trucks. Mary said that they have had contact with interested parties at Amazon and are working to get their approval! Super, Mary - best of luck!

Joe mentioned that February is Album Writing Month (see FAWM.org) and that he will be setting up a Songsmith Facebook page for this group - please let Joe know (strousongs@gmail.com) if you’re interested in writing 14 songs in 28 days. As always, quantity counts, not quality - so send in those jingles, remnants for lyrical death cage fights, jousting, or anything that inspires you. He guarantees that you’ll write songs that you probably will otherwise never have written and perhaps a gem or seven may appear!

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, guilt, or other obligations.

As always, we’re looking for Zoom-knowledgeable person 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, February 17th, 2025 or sooner!