

Songsmith – Austin  
February Critique Session  
February 21, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom (haphazardly moderated by Joe Strouse) from 7:05 pm to 9:03 pm on February 21, 2022. We had eight Zoom attendees and heard seven diverse works in progress.

Joe started the meeting by mentioning Sting’s song “Practical Arrangement” and the amazing a cappella version performed by The Junction, available on YouTube. He also mentioned James Taylor’s most excellent Audible book, “Bankshot: My First 21 Years”.

Joe also started the session with his song “Oh, Penny”, one of his recent FAWM songs about the singer’s regret for failing to fulfill an agreement. Comments included some lyrical changes to make the song clearer and a possible chord change throughout.

Stewart Moser sent “Consequences”, a song (written in the waning days of December 2021) warning about what could happen should certain actions be taken by some. Comments included noting the great prosody, unique use of the word “caprice”, as well as a few minor lyric possibilities. Again, excellent work, Stewart!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (“Grammy”) sent in their vivid interpretation of Joe’s November 2020 song, “Booty Coffee”. Grammy did a great version of taking a relatively plain song into a hilariously suggestive, R-rated one. The group seemed to appreciate this version and there were few suggestions beyond the laughter. Thanks, y’all!

John Stearle sent in “How Could The Super Bowl Fall On Valentine’s Day?”, which, of course, was its story. This song had an outstanding chorus and followed two lovers’ conversation and ensuing challenges. Comments were helpful, possibly having some more images for consistency and a longer title (just kidding). Great work, John!

Scott Badger sent his song, “Ain’t Giving Up” a song about a relentless potential lover. Great prosody, great lyrics, Scott! Listener’s suggestions included a bit more clarification as to whether the singer is a real potential mate or a stalker (hopefully the former), yet still another fine job from Scott – thanks!

Mary Dawson sent her co-write with the late Sal Anthony, entitled “More Than Ever”, originally written for a Valentine and intended for Mary’s dear husband, Dave, who passed in December 2020. Nicely produced, lyric comments included some tweaking and possibly minimizing any clichés. Sweet song, Mary – thanks!

Finally, getting the award for greatest patience was Brenda Merz, who sent “No Preacher”, a very melodic Christian song about helping to spread the Gospel of Jesus. The chorus stood out nicely and the group made a few lyric suggestions to help strengthen this song and connect with the listeners. Excellent work, Brenda – thanks!

Songsmith meets three out of the four Monday nights each month. As always, Songsmith has a Salado meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month), the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday for the Austin meeting, and a DFW meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month) where your songs can be heard and you can get feedback - always free. Please send your lyrics (Word format, please) and your mp3 to Tara Heflin ([tara.incognito@gmail.com](mailto:tara.incognito@gmail.com)) before 4 pm (Central time).

We're looking for Zoom-knowledgeable volunteer to run the meeting (audio and visual) for the DFW meeting. If you're interested, please contact Mary Dawson at [Mary@MaryDawson.com](mailto:Mary@MaryDawson.com).

We hope to see you on Monday, March 21, 2022 or sooner!