

Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session
Monday, May 20, 2019

The Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session was held in the conference room of Congregation Beth Israel on Monday, May 20th from 7 to 9:48 pm. We had eight attendees and heard eight very cool works in progress. And we enjoyed some snacks. We started the meeting by using adjective-noun collisions as a song title and then developing a four-line a-a-a-b verse – some very nice results.

Greg Livingston started the session by played a recording of his song, “Satin Sky” (derived from a recent metaphor exercise!) in which the singer described the relational challenges of love. Greg’s use of alliteration was excellent, as usual. Listener’s comments included some very minor lyric work and everyone really liked this song. Great job, Greg!

John Stearle provided a recording of his song “Why Is Uranus Blue?”, another very funny song in which the singer has unrequited love for a former flame-turned-astronomer. This song nicely incorporated a series of astronomy-related terms (oh yes, including white dwarf) to secure the point the singer was making. Suggestions included considering a tempo change and a slight melodic change in the chorus. Stellar, John!

Michael Stinson played guitar and sang his song “The Promise”, which cemented the singer’s commitment to his spouse. This song has great verses and choruses in delivering the title’s premise. Comments from the group included a few enhancements to the lyrics to clarify the a few. Some very nice images in this song, Michael – thanks for bring this one!

Mitch Lobrovich continued the critique session with a female-voiced demo of his song “Let You Fall”, a heart-wrenching plea from the singer to a loved one about dealing with the loved one’s downward spiral in life. The listeners suggested several types of clarifications relating to who was singing, as well as some other lyric-related considerations. Wonderful, Mitch!

Scott Joffe played guitar and sang his song “Nobody Want Me Tonight”, an *uber-cool* blues tune about how a childhood incident related to the singer’s decaying relationship. Scott’s use of motion in the last line of his chorus was perfect and totally set the listeners up for more. Comments included some very minor tweaking of the lyrics to help clarify the changes between the verses. Great work, Scott!

Stewart Moser played another recently-written tune, entitled “Roe v Wade”, which, while being pointed, described the singer’s optimism about a future potential supreme court decision. Stewart’s chords were great (nice minor in each of those second lines of the verses) and the listeners recommended some slight consideration allowing space in the lyrics. A judicious start, Stewart!

John Evans played a recording of his co-written song “Back To You”, a Christian praise song, describing the singer’s beseeching the Lord for help. John’s use of repetition in the chorus was excellent and really helped carry the message. Comments from the group included some minor lyric considerations and perhaps modifying the title just a bit. Fine work, John – thanks!

Joe Strouse brought a recording of one of his Pat Pattison Coursera Course assignments, entitled “Route 37”, a description of how this rural New England road personified the singer’s life. The group suggested some more internal rhymes and some excellent minor lyrics changes.

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, June 17th. We hope you can join us!

Critique session summaries are always available here:
<https://www.strousongs.com/critique-sessions>