

Songsmith – Austin
July Critique Session
July 15, 2024

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:08 to 8:57 pm on Monday, July 15, 2024, moderated by the ready and well-prepared Christopher Meyer. We had 10 Zoom attendees and heard eight cool songs in various stages of creation. A discussion concerning Artificial Intelligence (AI) in songwriting continued from last month, based on an example and detailed information from Scott Badger.

Bill Basinski started the session with “Panta Red”, an ode to a broken commode and the difficulties relating to complete its repair. This song has also been performed by Bill and his eldest daughter. Comments were few but a suggestion was made to move the second chorus down one verse from its current position. Great song Bill - thanks!

Scott Badger brought his AI-generated song entitled “Memory’s Here To Stay”. The Udio.com AI provided music and lyrics and Scott said that he was the song’s producer. The production was outstanding and it was interesting how the AI-generated lyrics had a good grasp of cliches. We appreciated Scott’s descriptions - thanks so much!

Joe Strouse sent his optional songwriting exercise song “Wig Night”, describing the singer’s anticipation of an amorous evening spiced up by a change of garments, created from a chorus melody. Comments included a slight lyric clarification in the bridge.

John Stearle brought an updated version of “Randy Grandishar Made It To The Hall”, sung mightily by Greg Livingston. This tribute to Randy was created by John (they’re distant cousins) and celebrates the NFL career of this great Denver Broncos linebacker (think Orange Crush). Everyone loved the video, as well - thanks, John!

Mike Couch brought his song (and video of) “Old Friends”, a beautiful ballad describing the importance and heartwarming aspects of long-time friendships. Mike’s descriptions were well done and were well-supported by the video. Suggestions were few and this was a good relatable song for all of the listeners - very nice, Mike!

Mary Dawson sent in her song “All Shall Be Well”, a Christian-inspired song about facing difficulties and keeping the faith. This song had a great groove and production (wow!), and a lyric suggestion was made that a small bridge (with less accompaniment and very short) would have a great effect on the message. Thanks, Mary!

Stewart Moser sent his song “Running Round The Wrong Wheel”, a wonderful (and emotionally-sung) song about making less-than-stellar choices in life. This one had a great melody and great chords, and certainly everyone could identify with this great work. Comments were minor, relating to phrasing. Super, Stewart!

GrAmy sent another narrative piece, entitled “Dragon Meetup/Never Ending Blue” for their upcoming play, mostly spoken by the character Zosma (Amy). Her purring cat impression was wonderful and added a new dimension. While there were no suggestions, the group really enjoyed this part of their nearly-complete play - cool!

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 maven 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, August 19th, 2024 or sooner!