

Songsmith – Austin
August Critique Session
August 19, 2024

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:05 to 8:42 pm on Monday, August 19, 2024, moderated by Joe Strouse. We had seven attendees and heard seven cool songs in various stages of creation. The AI discussion continued with Scott Badger's latest results as well as an optional songwriting challenge for September.

Mitch Lobrovich started this month's session with his song "Build A New Me", a jazzy ode about changing one's lifestyle with the help of organics. This song was well done and had a great feel and flowing lyrics. Suggestions from the group included keeping the two-line pre-chorus throughout the song. Thanks, Mitch!

Stewart Moser sent his song "The", a romantic song about meeting THE one and how it's changed the singer's life. With cool chords and a unique chorus/title line, this song was very reminiscent of a pop-Beach Boys type tune. Comments were few and mostly centered on the pronunciation of "The". Another hit, Stewart!

John Stearle brought his Bill Basinski-inspired tune "Two Forms Of Crack Were Found In The Port-a-Potty", a story song which described an unfortunate event in an usually undesirable location. As with most of John's songs, the group reveled in the detail and suggestions included checking syllabic stresses in the proper location. Fun, John!

Scott Badger bought another AI-generated song entitled "Being There". While Scott provided the lyrics this time, the Udio.com AI provided music. Once again, the production was outstanding and the listeners liked this song but said that they preferred Scott's simpler song renditions. Great work and very interesting - thank you, Scott!

GrAmy sent the final installment of their play, now entitled "Never Ending Blue", a re-write of the meeting between Astrea and Tristan. The song (Never Ending Blue) was lush and fit well for the characters. The group liked this installment and very few lyrical changes were offered. Great work, y'all!

Joe Strouse sent his latest completed exercise in Jimmy Kachulis' melody workbook, entitled "Popular", describing how a girl seems to be popular, as sung by her best friend. Commenters appreciated the mystery and offered a few minor chorus modifications.

Mary Dawson sent in a link to a video/song written by Peter Moon entitled “Beavers - We’re Building It”, written especially by/for elementary school children. Mary discussed how this might be an interesting market for songwriters and encouraged everyone to find these niches for their music.

Finally, Joe discussed the chorus for “Don’t Stand So Close To Me” by the Police. It didn’t rhyme, generally kept the same notes and was repetitive. The September optional songwriting challenge is to develop a chorus for a new song which didn’t rhyme, generally kept the same notes and was repetitive. Another example is Queen’s “We Will Rock You”. The possibilities are endless!

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, September 16th, 2024 or sooner!