

Songsmith – Austin
November Critique Session
November 21, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:06 to 8:58 pm on November 21st, 2022 and moderated by the magnificently dice-wielding Chris Meyer. We had eleven Zoom attendees and heard 7 excellent works in progress.

Greg Livingston (and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy)) started the session with their song “Rock Hard Rebel”, a rocking song about dissatisfaction with the world situation. There were great internal rhymes and instrumentation in this one. Comments included some minor lyrical and musical (chord) changes to make it more effective. Great work, y’all!

Mike Harris sent another well-produced co-write with Joe Clark, entitled “Softer Side”, a serious country tune with the singer explaining to his love that he really is a sensitive person. Outstanding melodies and very strong choruses gave this song a great feel. Suggestions included a few minor lyrics changes. Another winner – thanks!

Michael Wesley Stinson sent his song “Just Come On Home”, which described the singer’s life-long challenges with his son. This song had a great melody and message which the group enjoyed. Comments included strengthening some of the lyrics as well as reconsidering a revised title. Great work, Michael!

Stewart Moser provided “Sitting On Santa’s Lap”, a very humorous song about an unexpected experience near Christmastime. Stewart’s use of unusual circumstances made this song very, very funny. The listeners had very few possible changes for this song. Excellent work, Stewart – thanks!

Joe Strouse sent in a co-write (with John Greene) entitled “We’re Okay”, which described a couple’s positive reaction to (and coping with) extreme prejudice. Comments included rethinking some wordiness and phrasing as well as bridge changes.

John Stearle sent his song “Boogers, Farts, and Zits”, which described everything in its title. In true John Stearle fashion, details were not glossed-over and the attendees were definitely laughing. There were a few very minor suggestions but this one was certainly another classic. Crazy work, John!

Mitch Lobrovich sent his song “Sarasota”, a well-produced love song to that balmy Florida city. What a killer chorus! Totally well-written and effective, a big discussion ensued on what to keep and to change if he submitted this song to the City for use in its advertisement for tourism. Another great work, Mitch – thanks!

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 or other financial obligations.

As always, we're looking for Zoom-knowledgeable volunteer to run the audio and visual portions for the DFW meeting. If you're interested, please contact Mary Dawson at Mary@MaryDawson.com.

We hope to see you on Monday, December 19th, 2022 or sooner.