

Songsmith – Austin  
October 20, 2025 Critique Session

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:10 to 9:01 pm on Monday, October 20, 2025, moderated by the maestro, Christopher Meyer. We had ten attendees and heard eight excellent songs in various stages of creation. Joe also talked a little bit about the use and effectiveness of alliteration in songwriting.

Mitch Lobrovich started the session with his rough draft of “Color Is My Song”, a very descriptive tune about the life of Van Gogh. The listeners really liked this song and there were a number of suggestions for lyrical changes to make this one even stronger. Super start, Mitch - thanks!

Scott Badger provided his song “I Guess That’s Love”, a beautifully simple song that described what love can be in a relationship. Scott’s use of title repetition was stellar and while the group had some questions, there were no significant changes offered. Outstanding, Scott!

Phil Fielder sent his AI-music generated song “The B.I.B.L.E”, a Christian song about the bible as the “Basic Instruction Before Leaving Earth” (B.I.B.L.E). Nicely done, suggestions included more emphasis on the abbreviations in the chorus to emphasize it better for the listener. Great idea, Phil - thanks!

Joe Strouse sent in “Be Kind”, an R&B plea based on a phrase from former New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. There were a few possible lyrical modifications from the listeners to strengthen the song.

Bill Basinski sent an mp3 of his song “Frankie and Johnnie Revisited”, of course, based on the original Frankie and Johnnie song. Bill added a few of his own possibilities, which held the group’s attention nicely. There were a few lyrical suggestion as well. Thanks, Bill!

GrAmy sent in their song “Cut Deep”, a scene from their play which includes the Queen and a character “Torn”. The introduction was interesting and suggestions

included possibly speeding up the song a little bit and making it a little more of a rocker. Regardless, super effort by these two!

Long-absent Bill Sibley sent in his song “Janis”, which described the songwriter driving and picking up a flamboyant hitch hiker along the way. Great descriptions and great story that the group enjoyed hearing. Suggestions included some alternative title suggestions, but nonetheless, very good work!

Chris Meyer topped off the session with a video version of his now-famous Covestro song, recorded and played by Covestro employees in Mexico. Super video, and of course, the song. We all can imagine how exciting that this must be for Chris - now we’re waiting for the German, Hindu, Belgium, China, and Japan versions!

Joe talked a little bit about the use of alliteration in songs and read the lyrics to CSN&Y’s “Helplessly Hoping” and how it can become an ear-worm. Joe then challenged everyone to spend 15 minutes listening to music and finding the alliteration in the songs they’re hearing. Finally, as another optional challenge, write a song with some degree of alliteration for next month.

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 – no dues, spam, 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](mailto:Mary@MaryDawson.com).

We hope to see you on Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 or sooner!