

Songsmith – Austin
April Critique Session
April 18, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom (nicely moderated by Chris Meyer) from 7:13 pm to 8:48 pm on April 18, 2022. We had seven Zoom attendees and heard seven well-crafted works in progress.

Joe described the *optional* songwriting assignment for May – write a song with a title being the name of a street where you have actually lived. The *bonus optional* songwriting assignment is that the contents of the song cannot be true. Good luck!

Kevin Mallory started the evening's session with his song "Guarantee", a self-effacing tune about the singer's ability to fail in certain situations. With a super strong chorus, this song definitely entertained the listeners. Comments included a few phrasing and lyrical considerations. Good work, Kevin!

Joe Strouse sent in "Nuclear Horseradish" an upbeat ditty with a warning about the dangers of making this recipe. Suggestions included a minor change to the bridge to make it unstable and follow the mood of the song.

Scott Badger provided his blues tune, "What I Like", which described the singer's needs from a love interest. As we've come to enjoy, Scott's vocal and lyrics grabbed the listener with wonderful images. Comments included some minor lyric/structural changes to keep the great momentum going. Super, Scott – thanks!

Stewart Moser sent "Need Sleep", a song which wonderfully describes the singer's current lack of energy. With very short lyric lines and cool chords, this song was enjoyed by everyone. There were a few lyrical and structural suggestions to help emphasize the humor of the song. Nice, Stewart!

Chris Meyer sent himself (!) another one of his FAWM tunes, entitled "Just In Case", which described the singer's accumulation of stuff in the house and the difficulties of letting it go. Very reminiscent of Marshall Crenshaw, the listeners really like this tune and had a only few minor suggestions. Cool, Chris!

Mary Dawson brought her co-write (with Bruce Greer) entitled "Pray and Watch", which described how merely prayer might not be the way for things to happen. This Christian style song had good visuals and a strong chorus. Comments from the group included a few lyric suggestions. Great song, Mary!

Debra Redmond read the lyrics for her song "About Now", another Christian song about redemption. The chorus was very strong and the group gave excellent feedback for lyrically/structurally strengthening the message as well as including Chris's most-excellent musical suggestion for the chorus. Super start, Debra!

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.

And don't forget the optional songwriting assignments for next month!

We're still looking for Zoom-knowledgeable volunteer 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, May 16, 2022 or sooner!