

Songsmith – Austin
October Critique Session
October 17, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:09 to 9:29 pm on October 17, 2022 and moderated by the dice-wielding Chris Meyer. We had twelve Zoom attendees and heard ten excellent works in progress.

Mitch Lobrovich sent his song “Wrapped Up In You”, a well-produced R&B song (and video) about snuggling with a loved one. Mitch’s video lined up nicely with two cats in a basket, which gave new meaning to the very romantic lyrics. The group loved this work and very few suggestions were offered. Great work, Mitch!

Joe Strouse sent in “These Are The Days”, a ballad about reminiscing with an old friend and realizing that the good times are still being created. A number of comments were made concerning the lyrics to help strengthen the images.

Sulphur Springs songwriter Mike Harris sent his well-produced (and emotional) co-written song (with Joe Clark) “Every Door”, which described the dark path of heroin addiction. The group made several suggestions concerning the lingo/slang in the lyrics and setting the scene. Welcome and thanks, Mike and Joe!

Scott Joffe provided his song “Precious In The Well”, describing resolve in exiting very difficult, abusive relationships. As with all of Scott’s songs, the lyrics were extremely thought-provoking. Questions included some lyrical clarification and several comments included lyric order. Wow, Scott – great work!

John Stearle sent his song “Pantywaist Loser” which was from a woman’s perspective and described a series of bad decisions/actions by a date. The story was very interesting but the group noted that John’s odd vocal voice made the song a bit distracting and offered several suggestions. Thanks, John!

Stewart Moser provided a recent creation, entitled “Jackpot”, which described the singer’s appreciation for meeting a new love and how the singer’s outlook on life has been improved. Comments were very positive and only a very few lyric/production comments were made. Nice work, Stewart – thanks!

Greg Livingston (minus Amy Guentzel (GrAmy)) sent in “Wild Stallion Heart” a continuation of Greg’s work/play about Desiree and her leaving her home in the desert. Several suggestions included some minor lyric changes as well as comments on the great vocal and production. Excellent. Greg!

Chris Meyer played his song “Still” which he said was liked by a Nashville producer. This song concerned how a positive relationship has improved the singer’s life by noticing changes. Comments from the listeners were few and concerned a few lyrics in making the song more fluid. Very nice work, Chris!

Michael Wesley Stinson submitted his guitar/vocal draft of “My Only Friend”, which described the singer’s tentative relationship with a loved one and how it has resolved over time. Great images, as always, and suggestions made were mainly concerning how these lyrics told the interesting story. Thanks, Michael!

Mary Dawson sent in a co-write with Brian Wooten, entitled “Keep Calm, Fly On”, which described the right attitude (altitude?) in overcoming adversity. Comments from the group were positive and included some lyrics and structural changes to keep the momentum going. Cool work, Mary – 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, November 21, 2022 or sooner.