

Songsmith – Austin  
September Critique Session  
September 20, 2021

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom (moderated by continually amazing Tara Heflin) from 7:11 pm to 9:56 pm on September 20, 2021. We had 12 Zoom attendees and heard 10 amazing works in progress.

Joe started the meeting with a discussion of the song “Moonlight In Vermont”, a 1944 tin-pan alley classic by John Blackburn and Karl Suessdorf. While this song has been covered by many artists, it remains unique for two reasons – it has no perfect rhymes and the verses are Haikus. After a bit of further discussion, the group was challenged to write an A-A-B-A style song with Haiku verses. We’ll see next month who’s up for the challenge!

Michael Wesley Stinson started the critique session with his song “Favorite Mystery”, which described the wonders of his wife. Michael’s images were effective in portraying her in a positive light. Comments and questions from the listeners included lyrics which were unclear. Very good, Michael - thanks!

Dori Weaver sent in her “Moving Air” which nicely described the singer’s love relationship. The group really enjoyed this almost ethereal tune (yet another strong chorus!) with jazzy chords and a strong bridge. Comments were few, relating mostly to production. Another great effort, Dori!

Kevin Mallory continued session with his song “Not A Chance” – a Nirvana-style rocker with an *amazing* chorus (retort?) to the verses. Everyone was on board with the song’s sentiment and there were a few small lyrical suggestions offered for the chorus and the bridge for rhyme and contrast. Awesome work, Kevin!

Joe Strouse sent a re-write of one of his recent songs entitled “Waiting For Your Fall”, where the singer is trying to help a successful friend with serious addiction issues. The listeners offered several lyric possibilities for finishing this song.

Stewart Moser sent in his song “Wait, What?”, concerning the singer being seriously misled in a romantic relationship. This song’s great chorus (and chords), really helped portray the singer’s surprise. Minor lyrical comments concerning the bridge and the final verse were offered. This one was a real goody, Stewart – thanks!

Chris Meyer sent in a new song, “Love The Ones That Came To Stay”, a relationship/history tune composed of three songs he had been working on. While the song was a bit long, the group suggested several ways to shorten the song and to keep it attention-getting. Great start Chris!

Long-absent John Stearle sent his song “Nine Dollar Wine”, enlisting the help of Greg Livingston, Amy Guentzel, and Mike Dooley. The singers in this very funny song

describe the pros and cons about potential bar purchases. Comments were few but mentioned a few timing/phrasing possibilities. Great work, y'all – welcome back John!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel sent in a re-write of their song, entitled “There Should Be A Law”, concerning the points of view of a Mustang Drive and a Corvette driver. Great vocal work (again) by Greg and Amy, and comments included a few lyrical adjustments. Nice- thank you both!

Scott Badger sent his song, entitled “Dream Girl”, which vividly described the singer’s anticipation of going to sleep each night. This song was very well constructed (as Scott definitely does) and the group really enjoyed it and its twist. Suggestions included some minor lyric changes, but all told, another well-written song from Scott – thanks!

Mary Dawson sent in her co-written song, entitled “Fit To Be Tied”, a very sweet song about a confirmed bachelor (bachelorette?) with a final change of heart. Even though the song was written a number of years ago, the listeners provided solid feedback on making it even stronger. Very good work, Mary!

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 for free. Please send your lyrics (Word format, please) and your mp3 to Tara Heflin ([tara.incognito@gmail.com](mailto:tara.incognito@gmail.com)) before 4 pm (Central time).

We’re looking for Zoom-knowledgeable volunteer to run the meeting (audio and visual) for the DFW meeting. If you’re interested, please contact Mary Dawson @ [Mary@MaryDawson.com](mailto:Mary@MaryDawson.com).

We hope to see you on Monday, October 18th or sooner!