

Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session
Monday, January 21, 2019

The Songsmith – Austin Monthly Critique Session was held in the conference room of Congregation Beth Israel on Monday, January 21st from 7 to 9:15 pm. We had six attendees and heard five great works in progress.

We ran through some brief exercises in colliding adjectives and nouns, as well as nouns and verbs, in order to enhance metaphors in songwriting. Some of the results were nicely surprising and provided ideas for further songwriting exploration. We'll continue this metaphor exercise next month as well.

Stewart Moser started the critique portion of this month's session with his song, "Individual 1", which lamented the ongoing Russia investigation. Stewart's chords, rhymes, and rhythms really made this song groove quite well. Comments from the attendees included a quicker movement from the bridge into the final chorus, as well as a few lyric tweaks. Nice work, Stewart!

Aaron Clift played his song "The Color of Flight", which described a degree of wonderment in a changing life. Aarons' excellent basic prog-rock arrangement was very entertaining, and we look forward to hearing the finished version. Comments included providing some clarification of the singer's point of view and a possible title change. Enjoyed this one, Aaron!

John Stearle brought his song (and his guest) "Mannequin Café", one of a series of songs for an upcoming play that John is working on. This song was very funny (as John is wont to do) and the group really enjoyed the descriptions and the dialogue. Comments included some easy/minor changes to the structure and flow. Super, John!

Michael Stinson played his song "Falling", which described his courtship with his wife. Very heartfelt and well-constructed. A discussion concerning the necessity/possibility for a bridge ensued, as well as the group's comments concerning very minor lyrical suggestions to make this one even stronger. Thanks, Michael – a great draft!

Joe Strouse brought "There It Is", a song about a deceased friend and the heartbreak of driving his friend's former home. While the group liked the music and melody, comments group included the need for further clarification of the friend, as well as fixing some clunky lyrics.

As always, the Songsmith - Austin monthly critique session meets on the third Monday of each month in the most excellent and spacious conference room at Congregation Beth Israel, 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd, Austin, TX 78756. It's located on Shoal Creek Blvd, just north of 38th Street (near Central Market, Seton Hospital, etc...), and just west of Lamar.

Our next session is Monday, February 18th. We hope you can join us!