

Songsmith – Austin
June Critique Session
June 21, 2021

The Songsmith – Austin May Critique Session was held via Zoom (moderated by Queen Tara Heflin) from 7:12 pm to 9:31 pm on June 21, 2021. We had 12 Zoom attendees and heard 10 diverse works in progress.

Stewart Moser started the session with his song “Amazing”, a delightfully upbeat song about finding the right person in life. Comments were very positive for Stewart’s pop ditty and very few changes were offered. Like last month’s song, this will be a Stewart classic – we look forward to enjoying this in public. Great work, Stewart!

Joe Strouse sent a re-write of one of his older songs “The Guy With The Girl”, describing two seriously dysfunctional lovers during a bus ride in New York City. The group liked this 60’s sounding tune and a few lyric additions were noted.

Kevin Mallory sent in his song “Little Pieces”, which described the small things that add up (and become significant) in our lives. Kevin’s emotional delivery was stellar (especially the last chorus) and his music had great prosody. The listeners suggested only a few very minor lyrics. Nice work, Kevin – thanks!

Eulalia King sent in a demo of her stunning contemporary Christian song entitled “Simple Love Song” – a piano-vocal work which beautifully described the singer’s love for God. The group was very impressed with the overall work and generally felt that this song was done. Incredible effort, Eulalia!

Chris Meyer sent in his song “Mango Street (The TV Series Version)”, based on a book by Sandra Cisneros and using a writing exercise suggested by Robin Frederick. Chris adeptly included lyrics from the book to complete this song. There were a few lyrical comments from the evening’s attendees. Very inventive, Chris - thanks!

Scott Badger sent his heartfelt song “Waiting” about longing for a past love. Scott’s work on this song was impressive and his singing really emphasized the loss quite well. Comments from the listeners included some minor lyrical changes. Regardless, this song is a keeper, Scott – super work!

Dori Weaver sent in a song that she was commissioned to write for her upcoming high school reunion, entitled “Solid Grounds”. This tribute emphasized the rural connections that she and her classmates share. Comments were few for this nicely done tribute, but mostly centered around the lyrics. Great effort, Dori – congratulations!

Newly engaged (yay!) Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel sent in their very clever song “There Should Be A Law”, which described an attractive woman who is infatuated with the singer’s Corvette. Amy also provided some great seductive lines which helped make this song work well – especially with the twist at the end. Nice work, y’all!

Mary Dawson sent in her tribute to families with men and women in the military, entitled “Blue Star”, which sincerely described military service’s impact on family lives. This song was effectively written and produced. The group made a few small lyrical suggestions to help make it stronger. Great work, Mary – they’ll appreciate this song!

Newcomer Boyd Mooney provided a poem (in the form of an ode) which described the difficult life of a homeless man named Earl. Boyd’s descriptions and double entendres served this poem quite well and helped support sincere sympathy for Earl’s plight. Welcome, Boyd and thanks!

Songsmith meets three out of the four Monday nights each month. As always, Songsmith has a Salado meeting (2nd Monday of each month) and a DFW meeting (fourth Monday of each month) where your songs can also 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) before 4 pm (Central time) of that Monday’s Salado or Austin meeting. You can send lyrics and your mp3 to Martha Gak at Marthagak@hotmail.com before 4 pm (Central time) for the DFW meeting

As always, the Songsmith-Austin meeting is always the third Monday. If you’d like to be included in the June Songsmith-Austin critique session, please send your lyrics (Word format, please) and your mp3 to Tara Heflin (tara.incognito@gmail.com) before 4 pm (Central time) on Monday, July 19th.

See you on Monday, July 19th or sooner!