

Songsmith – Austin  
June Critique Session  
June 19, 2023

The Songsmith – Austin June Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:03 to 8:59 pm on June 19, 2023. We had 11 Zoom attendees and heard nine great songs in various stages of creation. As usual, the mighty mighty Chris Meyer provided the moderating duties for this marathon session and got an A+ (yet again) for his efforts. Thanks, Chris!

Chris Cavello started the session with his song “After Mother’s Day”, a very clever songs about the singer’s mother deftly letting him/her know that a better effort could have been made for that holiday. While Chris sand the song, most of the listeners agreed that the edge would be increased if it was sung by amateur female. Great work, Chris - thanks!

Michael Wesley Stinson brought his song “That’s Us” describing his long relationship with his wife. Very well written, the images and feel were evocative and relatable. Comments from the listeners were few but included a few rhyme suggestions to help make this one even stronger. Thanks, Michael!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy) provided an intro (piano) and theme for upcoming rock opera about Estrella and Tristan. The piano instrumental was nicely done and the raucous guitar for the the theme was very effective - especially including Amy’s vocals. Comments were few and positive - thanks, y’all!

Stewart Moser sent his song “Satisfying Poop”, which, well, described exactly what you’re thinking. With great chords and very funny lyrics, everyone was laughing and reminiscing about John Stearle’s absence this month. Again, there were very few comments other than how funny the song was and how it “flowed” well. Super, Stewart!

Mitch Lobrovitch sent in his Scottish-themed song “My Isle of Skye”, a wonderfully written ode to that land, sung with an effective brogue. Mitch’s melodies were beautiful and while there was a wee bit of rhyme discussion, the group really liked this song. Everyone agreed that this one’s a keeper, Mitch - great work!

Song Joffe sent in “All The Rainbows” a stream of consciousness protest song directed at the spineless legislators who do nothing to curb school murders. The point of view was very effective and while it seemed run-on and jumbled, it effectively carried the singer’s frustration and disgust. Comments were very positive. Great work, Scott!

Long-absent Brian MacLeod sent his song “Little Gray Donkey”, a sweet tune about one of the animals in a petting zoo that does his own thing around children. This was another well-written song and the listener’s suggestions were minor but included the need for Brian to develop a cartoon/YouTube video. Thanks, Brian!

Also long-absent songwriter Kevin Mallory sent his song “Help Me Buddha”, a plea from a desperate soul searching for help dealing with life. Kevin’s work on this song really had everyone sympathizing with the singer and several suggestions were offered. Outstanding work on this one, Kevin!

Joe Strouse provided “Cottonelle”, a humorous song which described the singer’s reaching wealth and being able to afford the more expensive toilet paper. Unbeknownst to all of the listeners, Joe agreed that this would be the B-side to Stewart’s 45.

Finally, Joe briefly discussed how a few significant words (here, look, this, etc...) can draw in a listener without extensive description and gave several examples. Joe also using the tool of external things in the first verse and internal things in the second verse.

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 - 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 and Salado meetings. If you’re interested, please contact Mary Dawson at [Mary@MaryDawson.com](mailto:Mary@MaryDawson.com).

We hope to see you on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> or sooner!