

Songsmith – Austin
December Critique Session
December 19, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin December Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:11 to 8:40 pm on December 19th, 2022. We had seven Zoom attendees and heard seven excellent works in progress while individually celebrating FEAHPLSACS (Fifteenth ever annual holiday pot luck snack and critique session) over the small screen.

Stewart Moser started the session with “Only A Song” which described the singer’s frustration with the basics of writing a song. Comments were very positive (great chords!) and a few minor lyric changes were offered in order to better describe the singer’s creative process. Super, Stewart – thanks!

Mike Harris sent yet another very well produced co-write with Joe Clark, entitled “Sugar Cane”, a country tune about the singer’s desire for continuity in keeping the farm within the family. Joe’s vocals were excellent and suggestions included some minor chorus lyric and melody additions to make it stronger. Great work, y’all!

Mitch Lobrovich provided his song “I Wanna Be Bad Tonight”, another well-produced song about being tired of being good. This humorous tune had everyone laughing and into the singer’s great voice and descriptive lyrics. Listeners made a few very minor lyrical and phrasing comments but all told, an outstanding creation – thanks Mitch!

Scott Joffe sent in a new song entitled “Nothing Left” which described a female singer’s sadness over the breakup of a relationship and the things left over from it. Scott’s presentation of this great effort was awesome and very poignant – the group really appreciated it and gave only a few lyrical comments. Wow, Scott – excellent!

Greg Livingston (and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy)) provided their song “A Poetry Of Life”, a sensual love song about first meeting someone special. Everyone definitely enjoyed this song (and the great mood it created). Suggestions varied, including possibly combining portions of the songs for continuity, but overall, very, very nice work!

Mary Dawson sent in a co-write with Bruce Greer, “Christmastime In Texas” (also recorded by Sonny Burgess) a bouncy, fun swing tune that had an awesome amount of super internal rhymes for challenging Texas words. Listeners really liked this one and comments included a potential lyrical update. Thanks, Mary – great work!

Finally, Joe Strouse sent in “A Close Life” describing the singer’s successfully wriggling out of several tense situations over the years. The group liked the song and offered a few minor lyrical suggestions to make it stronger.

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, January 16th, 2023 or sooner.