

Songsmith – Austin
October Critique Session
October 18, 2021

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom (moderated by maestro Chris Meyer, who substituted for the injured Tara Heflin) from 7:07 pm to 9:30 pm on October 18, 2021. We had 11 Zoom attendees and heard 9 awesome works in progress.

Joe again started the meeting with a brief discussion – this time it was about keeping song line lengths consistent with melodic phrases.

Chris Meyer started the session with his song “Fall Song”, which strictly followed last month’s Haiku challenge (including nature images). Chris provided great work about changing seasons, with an excellent “echo” for the fourth line. Participants provided a few lyric and production comments. Super job, Chris!

Joe Strouse sent a ¾ time Haiku song entitled “Don’t Turn On The Light”, which described not wanting to get out of bed after a difficult night. Listeners suggested more of a backstory in the bridge to help complete the song.

Stewart Moser sent in his song “Where Were You”, which describes a difficult day and finally making it home to someone who cares. As always, this song’s great chords helped it sound great. Minor lyrical comments concerning the final verse were offered. Thanks for the treat, Stewart!

Michael Wesley Stinson sent his Haiku song “Waiting For The Sun”, which described living in northern California and also included nature images. Michael’s music beautifully fit his lyrics and the overall effect was impressive. Comments were few for this well-done work. Thanks, Michael!

Scott Joffe sent his song “Let It Come To Me”, which described change and relationship challenges. Scott’s solid structure in this song and rhymes were excellent. Comments included some re-thinking about the bridge (making it stronger) to bolster the song’s message. Super work, Scott!

Scott Badger sent his song, entitled “The One Who Cares”, describing an awkward relationship where who-loves-who becomes a competition. Scott’s delivery made this song very believable. Suggestions were few and touched on some minor lyric possibilities. Thanks, Scott!

John Stearle sent his song “Nothing Sounds Sweeter” (sung by the amazing Gia Capparelli and guitar by Mike Dooley). This relationship song was well written and the listener’s suggestions were minor – mostly concerning a few lyric opportunities. Nice work, John – thanks!

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel sent in their rocker song “Walk With Me Through The Night”, which gave thanks to health care professionals dealing with Covid. Comments included the great chorus, possible alternative titles, and some structural considerations. Great submittal – thanks!

Brenda Merz sent in a re-write of her song “Let The Rain Come Down”, a Christian song about dealing with difficulties through Christ. Brenda’s chorus was very strong and well-supported by the verses. Suggestions included a few possible (and very minor) lyric changes. Nice work, Brenda!

Mary Dawson provided a YouTube video of Young Thug’s “Love You More” after seeing it performed on Saturday Night Live. Mary pointed out how simple, yet engaging, the song was. She also reiterated how important it is to have a song that immediately connects with listeners. Thanks, Mary!

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 for free. Please send your lyrics (Word format, please) and your mp3 to Tara Heflin (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.

We hope to see you on Monday, November 15th or sooner!