

Songsmith – Austin
June Critique Session
July 18, 2022

The Songsmith – Austin September Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:04 pm to 8:47 pm on July 18, 2022 and moderated by tech wizard Chris Meyer. We had ten Zoom attendees and heard eight great works in progress. Joe also presented an optional songwriting challenge for August (see below).

Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel (GrAmy) started off the session with their dance song “A Shake Like Yours”, an upbeat meeting song with both of them singing different parts. The group really liked the beat (very danceable) and the overall song. The comments included keeping the chorus a little more compact. Super fun, y’all!

Long-absent (pre-Covid) Mitch Lobrovich sent his song “Your Matadora”, a well written song about a male and female, while she (the singer) tries to overcome his romantic approaches, much like a bullfight. With great images and feel, the chorus was highlighted with great motion which everyone enjoyed. Cool, Mitch – welcome back!

Stewart Moser sent in his 2011 stream-of-consciousness song “My Time” about a surreal setting where the singer is unwittingly caught in the middle of a street fight. This song had interesting images and great chords while the listeners wanted to know more about what exactly was going on, especially in relation to the bridge. Thanks. Stewart!

John Stearle emailed his song “The Same Old Nightmare” about the singer’s involvement with a number of odd things in a reoccurring dream. Very visual and funny, comments included some ideas about verse/chorus pacing as well as a few lyrical considerations. Interesting work – thank ewe, John!

Kevin Mallory sent “Fate”, a cool rocker/angst tune about finally doing something versus waiting for fate to arrive. Kevin said that the idea came from Mary Dawson’s critiqued song from a few months ago. Comments included some minor lyric changes, such as chorus reconstruction to keep it simpler. Great work, Kevin!

Scott Badger sent in his cool blues tune “No Rest For The Wicked”, describing a love interest’s activities which keep the singer off-balance. This one had great chords, great vocals (he really was born to sing the blues) and great feel. The listeners offered very few suggestions relating to the lyrics. Outstanding work, Scott – thanks!

Chris Meyer brought a re-write of his song “You Never Know”, a guide for the singer’s children concerning life’s challenges. Chris incorporated a number of the group’s previous suggestions which definitely strengthened this version. Only a few minor comments regarding the chorus and bridge were offered. Great work, Chris!

Joe Strouse sent in “Do What”, a basic country mid-tempo tune about the singer being hard of hearing, with vivid descriptions. Suggestions included using more mis-heard instances as well as a few other lyrical changes to enhance the effect.

The optional songwriting challenge for August is to bring a song about a recipe. Not necessarily easy but a challenge nonetheless. Perhaps a recipe for disaster?

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.

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.

We hope to see you on Monday, August 15, 2022 or sooner!