

Songsmith – Austin February Critique Session  
March 15, 2021

The Songsmith – Austin February Critique Session was held via Zoom (moderated by Tampa’s very own Tara Heflin) from 7:09 pm to 8:58 pm on March 15, 2021. We had nine Zoom attendees and heard seven excellent works in progress.

Michael Wesley Stinson started the session with his song “Can’t Believe”, which described sincere regret concerning a relationship that didn’t last. The group liked this song (with great title repetition) and offered a few lyric suggestions for added detail/specifics concerning the breakup. Thanks, Michael!

Stewart Moser sent his song “Ass On Chair”, a well-written tune describing the necessity for this action in order to overcome writer’s block. Based on a common admonishment from Berklee College of Music Songwriting Professor Pat Pattison, listeners really liked this song and comments were very minor. Great song (and chords), Stewart!

John Stearle sent in his song “Fart With Authority”, a funny ditty which encouraged doubters to be more self-assured (pun intended). While this sound sounded like it was inspired by Fastball’s “The Way”, John had everyone laughing and suggestions included some minor lyric and melodic changes – great, John – is there a video in the works?

Joe Strouse played his FAWN song #12, “Waiting For Your Fall”Knew Me When”, a plea from a friend to a rising star to keep one’s feet grounded. A few specific lyrical suggestions (and proposed singers) were offered.

Dori Weaver sent her song “Make Me Your Instrument”, a wonderfully written and sung Christian-folk tune about doing good things in life for people. Dori’s ABCCBB verse rhyme scheme was inspiring and comments included a few metaphorical change possibilities. Great work, Dori – we’re waiting for the re-write!

Greg Livingston played his song “Stand A Hero” (including harmony from his girlfriend Amy) which described how the singer is trying to be a better person. Suggestions included speeding up the tempo of the song (think Blood, Sweat and Tears’ “Almost Sorry”), to keep the great momentum going. Thanks, Greg and Amy – great song!

Newbie Scott Badger (living in Tyler) sent his song “Worthy”, a wonderfully written ballad about the singer’s desire to improve. Great guitar playing and vocals, the group really liked this song and offered a few structural and lyric changes for Scott’s consideration. Outstanding work, Scott – welcome!

Finally, Joe described Robin Frederick’s analysis of Olivia Rodrigo’s outstanding hit song “Driving Lessons”. Robin has a regular (free) newsletter and you can always sign up at: <https://robinfrederick.com/>.

Songsmith meets nearly every Monday using the same link - if you'd like to be included in the April Songsmith-Austin critique session, please contact Tara Heflin ([tara.incognito@gmail.com](mailto:tara.incognito@gmail.com)) and send her your lyrics (Word format, please) and if you'd prefer that we hear a recording, please also send an mp3 of your song before 4 pm (Central time) on Monday, April 19th.

See you on Monday, April 19th, 2021 or sooner!