

Songsmith – Austin
June 15, 2026 Critique Session

The Songsmith – Austin Critique Session was held via Zoom from 7:08 to 9:23 pm on Monday, June 15, 2026, moderated by none other than the magnificent Christopher Meyer. We had eight attendees and heard seven super songs in various stages of creation.

This month's *optional* songwriting challenge was to write a song where the singer is talking directly to someone (direct address - DA), using words like I and you.

Chris rolled the D&D die and Stewart Moser began the session with a love song for his dog Lulu, entitled "What A Good Girl". This sweet song extolled the virtues of the sweet little thing that happily keeps them company. There were few minor comments and everyone enjoyed this one. Thanks, Stewart!

Joe Strouse sent his DA song "I'm Your Blood", created during this year's FAWM, revised, based on a Suno interpretation of the lyrics and title. There were great comments concerning this song about the grandfather that Joe never met.

GrAmy provided a rewrite to their play's song "Never Ever Ending Blue", describing the beginning of the main character's voyage. As usual, there were great poetic images and soulful vocals which nicely set up the start of the play. There were a few minor comments, but great work, nonetheless.

John Stearle sent "Our Song", a DA co-write with Greg Livingston from the 1990s, using Suno's interpretation of the vocals. This song was very heartfelt and described the elements of a wonderful relationship. Suggestions included a few lyrical possibilities to make it smoother. Great work, y'all!

Mary Dawson provided "When I'm In Your Arms", a wonderfully-produced DA song that beautifully describes a loving relationship. The vocals were outstanding and comments from the group were relatively minor, but included some possible changes to the chorus. Thanks, Mary!

Jacquelyn Fraley provided her guitar-vocal DA song “Drop An Anchor On Me”, which nicely described how the the singer could be great support for a loved one. Her use of maritime metaphors worked nicely and suggestions included simplifying the chorus and the bridge. Outstanding start - thanks, Jacquelyn!

Our favorite long-haul trucker, Gerald Lucas, sent a draft of his latest Suno DA song “Bottle, Bible, and A Phone”, a country tune (of course!) about the three things the singer had in life. There were a number of helpful comments, including re-arranging the objects in the title. Another great start - thanks!

Joe led a very brief discussion concerning next month’s *optional* songwriting challenge - write a song where the singer is talking about/addressing someone/something. Examples of this first-person narrative type song includes “Me And Bobby McGee”, Stewart’s song “What A Good Girl”, Harry Chapin’s “Taxi”, most John Prine songs, and Paul Simon’s “Me And Julio Down By The Schoolyard”, among many others.

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, spam, or other obligations.

As always, we’re looking for Zoom-knowledgeable persons to moderate the DFW and Salado meetings. If you’re interested, please contact Mary Dawson at Mary@MaryDawson.com.

We hope to see you next on Monday, July 20, 2026 or sooner!