

Songsmith – Austin
July Critique Session
July 19, 2021

The Songsmith – Austin May Critique Session was held via Zoom (moderated by the oh so excellent Tara Heflin) from 7:10 pm to 9:04 pm on July 19, 2021. We had 10 Zoom attendees and heard eight truly excellent works in progress.

Michael Wesley Stinson started the session with his song “Slow My Crazy Down”, an appeal to a lost love who apparently left the singer for at least one good reason. The listeners really liked this song and offered a few lyrics adjustments to help enforce the song’s progression. Great, Michael!

Joe Strouse sent another re-write of one of his older songs – a tribute entitled “John Prine”. The group liked this acoustic guitar-driven tune (thanks to Richard Paul Thomas’s handiwork) and offered a few ideas for pitching it.

Stewart Moser sent in his love song “I Do What I Can”, an ode to the wonders of being in love after finding the right person in life. Suggestions were lyrical (with a few minor structural changes) and the group remarked that they liked this slower, lower tenor-voiced song. Thanks, Stewart!

Chris Meyer sent in his song, entitled “Until Closing Time”, a country lament about drinking in a bar, when the singer has a lot of regrets. Everyone really liked Chris’ great chords and cool melody. Comments included a few lyrical and structural changes to make this song even tighter. Super work, Chris – re-write time!

Dori Weaver sent in her definitely pop salsa song “Chances”, which described the singer’s anticipation for a new adventure. With great lyrics (and it was, of course, Robin Frederick inspired) the listeners offered a few lyric suggestions and placement opportunities. Wow, Dori – another solid song!

Mary Dawson sent in her co-write, “Full Circle”, which described the healing process for a broken heart. Great production and great lyrics really made this song. The group really enjoyed this song and the only significant suggestions concerned the bridge, so only a few minor modifications are needed to make this song soar even higher! Thanks!

Still newly engaged Greg Livingston and Amy Guentzel sent in another in Greg’s series of songs (for a play) entitled “Between The Lines”, a sweet love song which featured small spoken word portions with Amy’s great voice. The group really liked this and offered a few minor production suggestions to keep the great vibe going. Nice, y’all!

Scott Badger sent his blues song of regret, entitled “Damn Fool”, which wonderfully described the singer’s current feelings. Everyone really enjoyed the feel and Scott’s great vocal. A very few minor comments were made to help strengthen the progression of this song. Another keeper, Scott – wow!

Songsmith meets three out of the four Monday nights each month. As always, Songsmith has a Salado meeting (2nd Monday of each month) and a DFW meeting (fourth Monday of each month) where your songs can also 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) of that Monday's Salado or Austin meeting. You can send lyrics and your mp3 to Martha Gak at Marthagak@hotmail.com before 4 pm (Central time) for the DFW meeing

As always, the Songsmith-Austin meeting is always the third Monday. If you'd like to be included in the August Songsmith-Austin critique session, please send your lyrics (Word format, please) and your mp3 to Tara Heflin (tara.incognito@gmail.com) before 4 pm (Central time) on Monday, August 16th.

We hope to see you on Monday, August 16th or sooner!