



## SongDoor 2023 International Songwriting Competition

Entry Evaluation for: **Jeffrey Scott Leavitt**

Song: **The Man on the Middle Cross**

Scoring: Each item is assessed on a scale from 1-10, with 1 being a strong “no,” 5 being average and 10 being “absolutely yes!” (Note that a score of 10 is reserved for true excellence and is rarely given.) The comments are the combined opinions of multiple judges. We always try to be constructive; we don’t presume to know everything or be right 100% of the time. Opinions are, by their nature, subjective.

- 7** There is a strong intro that grabs the listener.
- 7+** There is a memorable hook that makes you want to hear the song again and again.
- 9** The theme/idea is fresh and unique, even if it’s a take on an old theme (“love lost”).
- 8** The song tells a story that evokes an emotion (love-struck, sad, lonely, joyful, wistful, etc.)
- 7** The song isn’t overly personal; it’s something the general public can relate to.
- 7+** There is a different melody for the verse, chorus and bridge (if there is a bridge).
- 9** The lyrics are original, interesting and avoid clichés.
- 8** The melodies are original and support the mood of the lyrics.
- 6** The transitions between song parts are smooth and pull the song together.
- 7** Overall, is this a well-written song with actual commercial potential.

**Comments:** Compelling title. The perspective is so fresh and unique - that is very difficult to do in a genre where it seems like most Christian songs are just rearrangements of other Christian songs. It’s interesting because the language is so contemporary—as are the references—when the song is purportedly in the first person, recalling the scene of The Crucifixion. The melodies are also contemporary (pop), which suit the lyrics **but not necessarily the somber aspects of the theme. Maybe revisit the transitions - the chord changes are a little jarring. Tempo-wise, it feels rushed (we all agreed on that).** If you are intent on commercial possibilities for the song, you may have some resistance, but **we all agreed that it would be PERFECT for a theatre production a la Jesus Christ Superstar.** Great start, but not quite there yet. **Thank you for using the SongDoor Evaluation Service!**