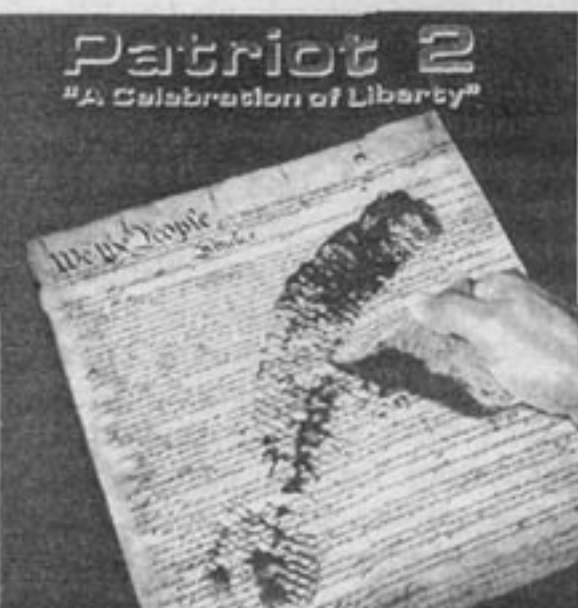


## Working to Rekindle a Passion for Liberty

Independent composer Matt Fitzgibbons hopes his new Brand of rock music will excite and unite Americans



By **GEORGE LINKLETTER**

If Sherman resident Matt Fitzgibbons has a personal motto, it might well be "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."

A little over a year ago, the 39-year-old amateur musician recorded and released a unique CD containing original rock music that celebrated the personal liberties guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The music on the 11-song CD also honored the U.S. service personnel who have fought -- and continue to fight -- to protect those precious freedoms.

Recording that first CD was the culmination of several years of effort and a significant personal and artistic achievement for Fitzgibbons. But it was just one step in the long journey to commercial success and his ongoing personal quest to honor the men and women serving in the U.S. armed forces.

Now Fitzgibbons has recorded and released a second patriotic CD. This one, called *Patriot 2: A Celebration of Liberty*, has 12 original songs, each featuring his unique approach to music. And it benefits both from a professional of technical quality and a more experienced marketing effort.

*Patriot* and *Patriot 2: A Celebration of Liberty* were both self-produced. Because funds were limited, Fitzgibbons wasn't able to achieve the level of recording quality on the first CD that he wanted and that the popular market demands. Still, the effort served as a good learning experience, and the positive reaction of friends and critics, as well as troops and their families, encouraged him to continue.

The second CD, with songs entitled 'Freedom,' 'Remember the Americans,' and 'Stand,' is receiving greater critical acclaim as well as more attention from the news media. Fitzgibbons has already been interviewed by the New Milford Times, the Danbury News-Times, the Waterbury Republican and the Hartford Courant, and he has appeared on radio broadcasts in Colorado, Missouri and on the Sally Jessy Raphael program.

And the marketing effort is paying off, too. The song 'Freedom' is featured in a new documentary film called 'The G a n g' (<http://www.thegangmovie.com>), he has signed a deal with Copperfield Records to distribute the CD in Australia and New Zealand, and a video he produced of his song 'Remember the Americans' recorded 600 hits in just the first three days of posting on the Internet. It is available on YouTube, Google Video, MySpace and his Web site (<http://www.patriotmusic.com/RememberTheAmericans.wmv>).

Fitzgibbons, who also works as a Web site designer and online marketer, has been playing music for more than 30 years. He has also traveled and lived abroad,

where he has seen people with far less political and economic freedom. And he has been concerned about the erosion of personal liberties in America for some time. But the deepening division evidenced by the most recent Presidential campaign and election was the single catalyst that spurred him to merge his two passions and try to make a difference.

Fitzgibbons believes that too many Americans take for granted the liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, those invaluable documents, penned more than two centuries ago. In fact, he thinks very few Americans are even aware of what really made the American Revolution so 'revolutionary.'

He hopes his music will help spur Americans to re-read those important documents, talk about their meaning, and better appreciate the freedoms they are intended to protect.

"My goal is to try to re-ignite a passion for those founding principles," he told the Citizen-News. "Our freedoms set America apart from the rest of the world," he says, "but if we take our freedoms for granted, they can disappear very quickly."

"I think America is more divided now than at any period since the Civil War," he says. "I believe the two major political parties bear much of the blame. They are focused on disunity and have lost touch with the origins of the nation." "Our roots emphasized limiting of the power of the government and fostering personal responsibility and freedom," he continues. "Government should be small, and close to, and serve the people," he says, "and today it is not."

The cover of his first CD features an image of a single American Flag against a sky-blue background and is titled *Patriot*. The second CD features an image of the U.S. Constitution with a hand removing a muddy footprint. (New Fairfield resident Jay Silverberg, aka 'Rock Nurse,' plays lead guitar throughout the CD.)

"The CD is not about me," says Fitzgibbons, "the music is about the importance of freedom and is also a tribute to all the American soldiers and armed forces that fought to protect our freedoms."

"America is the last bastion of hope for liberty," he says. "I want to help make sure that we remember and cherish the simple notions that made us the most free people in history. I'm just trying to do my part to help protect our rights or and hopefully prevent our from Great Experiment failing."

More information and the CD are available at [www.patriotmusic.com](http://www.patriotmusic.com).



Matt Fitzgibbons