

'Entitled' Released

By JACK CORAGGIO

LITCHFIELD — The amendments to the U.S. Constitution do not clash, but political partisanship does.

A schism in our right/left approach to rules of governance seemingly muddles the collective reception of our rights, and that phenomenon baffles Litchfield resident and musician Matt Fitzgibbons. He bemoans the "red versus blue" mentality that puts countrymen at odds, when what really matters is the otherwise non-partisan idea of liberty.

That message he hopes will come through to listeners of his recent musical release, "Entitled."

He ensures that the 13 tracks aren't of the Charlie Daniels Band brand of conservatism or the R.E.M. take on liberalism. It instead adheres to something a bit more timeless.

"I support the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, I support all the Bill of Rights," said Mr. Fitzgibbons. "Where this goes, I'd like to give some tools and good music ... I'm

not going to tell people how to vote and how to think."

This is the third indie release for the founder of PatriotMusic.com. The record has an overall earthy tone, and shines as a modern school of rock for the masses. And it is quite bridging; a track like "Different in your Eyes" takes a John Mellencamp-style Americana love story but makes the happy couple decidedly liberal and conservative.

"I really want to focus on inalienable rights," said Mr. Fitzgibbons on his personal and musical intentions.

His fervor for personal freedom has him laud the American Civil Liberties Union for its rightful protection of wrongful hate speech, but he is left dismayed by the non-profit group's shyness over matters of gun rights.

Mr. Fitzgibbons recorded "Entitled" in his Litchfield studio with fellow musicians Rich Roger and Vincent Bockius, and he had artist Jon Finucane design a cover where Uncle Sam is trampled

underfoot of both a donkey and an elephant that both make off with wads of cash.

Interesting aside: Mr. Fitzgibbons found Mr. Finucane, an otherwise stranger, online. In fact, Mr. Finucane lives on his street.

Back to our rights, the musician would like to get people better versed on the topic. Civics class is not a requisite in school, but the Bill of Rights is so accessible.

Here the Top 10: freedom of religion, speech, press and the right to assemble peaceably; the right to keep and bear arms; protection from quartering troops; protection from unreasonable search and seizure; the right to due process and protection from self-incrimination; the right to trial by jury and a speedy and public trial; the right to a civil trial by jury; protection from excessive bail and cruel and unusual punishment; the protection of certain rights not enumerated in the Constitution; and the preservation of state's rights.

Then there are 17 more.

It's worth a read, and "Entitled" is worth a listen.

To get a copy or to learn more, see the Web site at www.patriotmusic.com.