

# 'Patriot 2' is second CD for Sherman vocalist and songwriter

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Sherman resident Matt Fitzgibbons recently released his second CD of patriotic music, *Patriot 2*, a sequel to his first collection of original music that he made in June 2005.

Both CDs contain an assortment of songs dedicated to the country's founding fathers, with many messages about freedom and patriotism.

After releasing his first CD in 2005, Mr. Fitzgibbons immediately got to work on the second one.

He's determined to break into the music business and has received plenty of encouragement from many people, he said.

"I got an awful lot of good comments [on my first CD] from members of our troops and a lot of other people, and I felt I really needed to start from the very beginning and write all new [songs]," he said.

"There were certain things I wanted to say, and I wanted the production to be second to none, write about 30 songs and boiled

them down to the 12 that are on the album."

His first CD celebrated the Constitution and the United States' founding fathers, with a goal of getting people thinking and talking about documents like the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and to read them. "It's important to do that, because we're losing them, in part because of our lack of familiarity with them," he said.

For his second effort, he sought out the assistance of guitarist Jay Silverberg of New Fairfield, whose playing has a strong rock and roll style and adds plenty of kick to the album. His wife Bernadette sings backup on several tracks, and his mother's violin is also featured in others.

And he is the primary vocalist in each and every track, which vary from soft ballads with acoustic guitar accompaniment to strong rock songs with guitar with drums and other instruments.

Mr. Fitzgibbons holds a degree in philosophy from the University of Connecticut, has

worked as a teacher and a corporate trainer, and is now employed by a design firm as a Web designer.

It's difficult for him to identify the genre of his music. It's a cross between folk and rock music, with a pointed message that is depicted in the poetic, strongly worded lyrics—appreciate the freedoms that you have as an American, and don't forget the sacrifices that were made to get them.

"I'm the last person to ask what [genre it] really is," the songwriter said. "I wrote it all, I'm playing the instruments, and I've heard every piece a thousand times, so I have no objectivity.

"Some people say it sounds like Billy Joel, others say it reminds them of Pink Floyd, and some people say my voice sounds like Sean Mullins. I really try to have ethereal soundscapes, and create these auditory images and match the emotion of the song to the lyrics. Then I add stuff like powerful rock guitar. Jay has such a solid rock background—he's phenomenal. He offsets a lot of the smoothness that I try to do, and he's a storyteller on the guitar, so it bounces off of the lyrics."

Mr. Fitzgibbons wanted the music to appeal to many people.

"I really wanted this album to cross generational lines, and it seems to have done that, based on the feedback that I've received," he said.

And like the first CD, his goal is the same—for the music to be non-political but inspired by the country's founding principles, "to get people to read the bill of rights and the ten amendments written by our forefathers," he said.

The songwriter launched "Patriot 2" on Nov. 11, and is getting air play on some radio stations.

"I've also gotten some distribution interest," he said. "It's not finalized yet, if something were to be picked up overseas that would be terrific. And overall, my goal is to write the best music I possibly could, that would inspire people to take a look at who we are as a country, but not focus on political issues.

"Frankly, my goal is also to be able to look back in years to come and know that I tried to do something to get people to think," he said.

"The passion that spurs me is that our major political parties have a blatant disregard for the Bill of Rights, so it's a way to vent for me, and a way not care so much about the little political

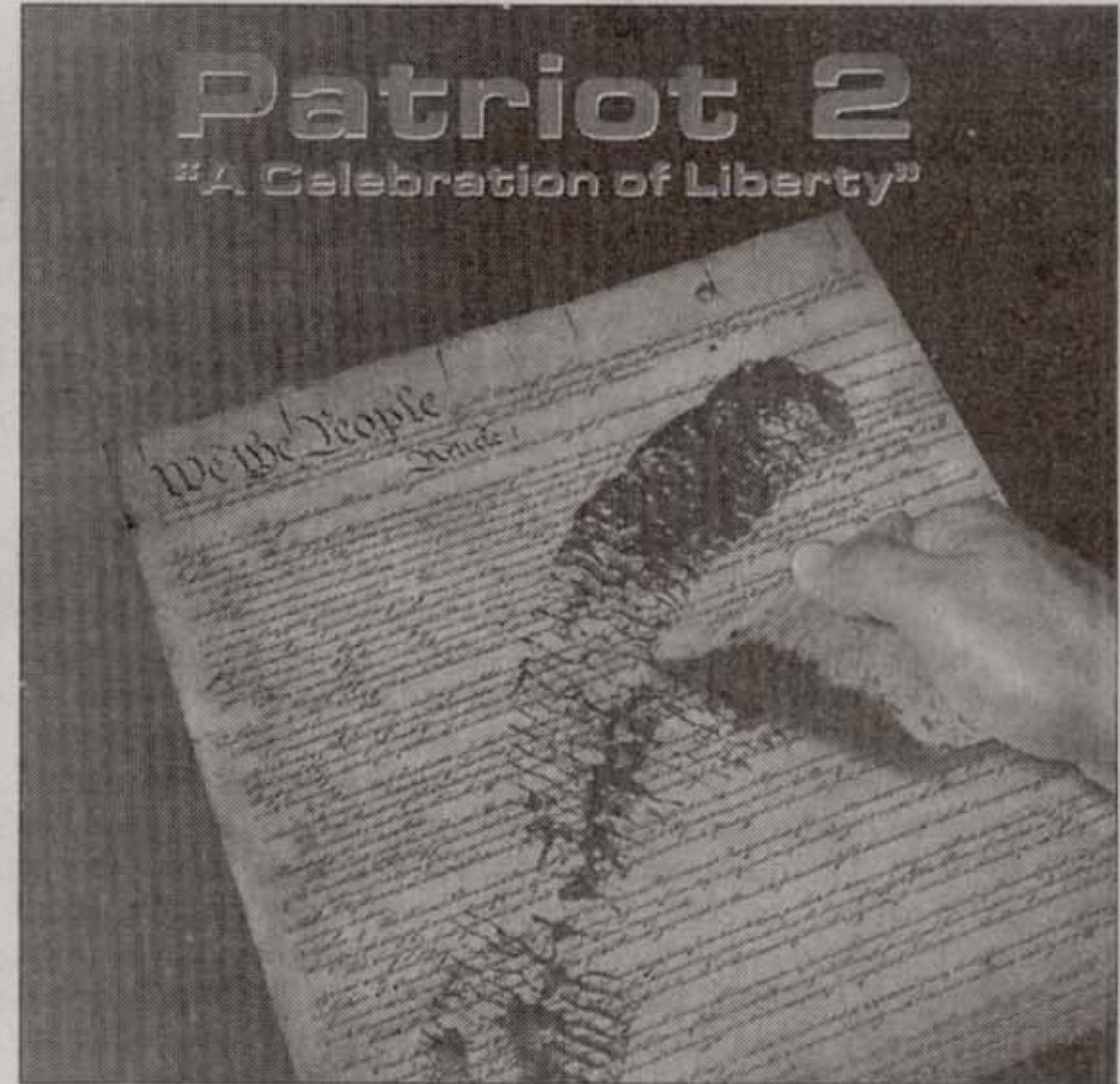


Image courtesy of Matt Fitzgibbons

"Patriot 2" is the second CD released by vocalist and songwriter Matt Fitzgibbons of Sherman.

things that are going on."

Mr. Fitzgibbons believes that the elements of the bill of rights and the Constitutional Amendments are "pure," and if they're properly practiced, "We've got a system that works," he said. "They're timeless principles. For example, whatever people think

about whether or not we should be in Iraq, we elected the leaders we have, and we have to support their decisions 100 percent. That's what this is all about."

Patriot 2 is available on [www.patriotmusic.com](http://www.patriotmusic.com) or [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com) for \$16 each.