

# Songs of principle

Litchfield resident offers free download of tune that reflects his belief in America's foundation

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His music may have evolved, but Matt Fitzgibbons' message has not.

The Litchfield web marketing specialist by day has spent the past several years celebrating the nation's founding principles through song. In the final weeks preparing for a new release, his third album in a patriot-themed series that's due out later this summer, Fitzgibbons has decided to offer a pre-release song on his website for free download. Less concerned with the financial implications of giving away his hard work for free, he aims to inspire the masses to movement through his music.

"I don't mind using music as a loss leader if it's going to accomplish a much larger goal," said Fitzgibbons, whose first self-produced releases were



**Matt Fitzgibbons of Litchfield recently released a new song that he's offering for free download, hoping to inspire the masses to movement through his music. He is at work on his third, patriot-themed album.**

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dubbed "Patriot" and "Patriot 2."

The aim beneath the beat: to get Americans, especially young ones, to pause to consider what liberty means to them, and contemplate government's role.

Said Fitzgibbons, who asserts that he tries to pen nonpartisan lyrics about individual and inalienable rights: "We are teetering on the edge. We are really close to becoming a second-rate power and there's nobody else that respects liberty in the world like the United States does. If we fall, I see the planet being plunged into 1,000 years of darkness. I know that sounds extreme, but honestly, I believe we're at a real tipping point not only in the history of the United States, but the world."

While Fitzgibbons, 43, wants

to make his message heard, he does not want it to drown out the musical composition. That's why this time around, he recruited the help of a few musicians to round out his sound — one that previously relied heavily on his own instrumentation and revisions. He continues to contribute everything from drums to keyboards to harmonica to lyrics, but added that the input of an area bassist and guitarist refined the music's sound. He described its feel as wide-ranging and modern, with higher production levels.

Fitzgibbons said several the 34 songs he has whittled down to about a dozen are "harder and faster" than ones he previously produced. Always, though, he strives to ensure the lyrics can be clearly heard. In the song he's offering for free download, called "They Can't Take That Away From You" he croons:

*You know your rights are not*

*like laws/ They can change or just ignore/ There to claim by every soul like so many did before.*

If he could inspire a listener to read the Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights or Constitution for the first time, Fitzgibbons said he would consider his music a success. The 17 pages collectively protect those fundamental freedoms that could be called "spiritually or intellectually instilled," he noted, a concise, effective collection.

"They're capable of adjusting to our needs. With my music, I want to do something similar," he said of those founding documents. Yet Fitzgibbons worries about apathy and ignorance in our republic, noting that four decades have elapsed without a Constitutional amendment. "The Founding Fathers intended that all of us be involved in all this, but we haven't... The

goal is, overall, to discuss positive, creative ways to secure our rights."

*To know more or download the free song "They Can't Take That Away From You" visit [patriotmusic.com](http://patriotmusic.com).*