

Showbiz USA

Adding Meaning to Music

Bands are coming out with songs of a conservative bent — music to your ears.

BY PAUL BOND

MUSIC IS A PERSONAL journey for most, and it's refreshing to come across songs that don't follow the beat of mainstream media. To that end, some new full-throated conservative rockers have popped up who are unafraid to speak their minds through their songs.

One website, BigDawgMusicMafia.com, has dozens of conservative artists and their songs and even lets visitors download many of them for free.

Here are five rockers who are cutting songs with crystal-clear conservative messages in them:

TOOTS SWEET TootsSweet.com

■ Toots Sweet started singing and rapping about current events from an obviously conservative perspective shortly after President Barack Obama was sworn into office.

His lyrics are so timely and informed that your average consumer of mainstream media might not understand them. References to ACORN, "overseas apologies," and "confusing education with indoctrination" are replete throughout. His lyrics also slam far-left academics like Saul Alinsky and Frances Fox Piven,

as well as Al Gore for his global-warming hypocrisy and Nancy Pelosi for voting in favor of bills she hasn't read. He quotes the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence and he includes audio of Obama speeches in his music.

"Pop culture is a powerful tool that most conservatives do not understand nor do they embrace fully," Sweet tells Newsmax. His mission is to change that, and he's doing so by playing his songs at places where conservatives gather, including tea party events and

CPAC — there was even an impromptu performance on Glenn Beck's former Fox News TV show.

Sweet has cut 30 songs with titles like "Pirate in the White House," "We the People," "Washington D'Sleazy," and "Arguing With Idiots." He sells them for 99 cents each at his website, and several are on his first CD, called

Takin' Back America. His upcoming CD, which includes a tribute song to Andrew Breitbart, is called *Liberty Manifesto*. "It's important to get the word across accurately and articulately," says Sweet, whose music seems to



LISA MEI NORTON

fuse Elvis Costello with a dash of hip-hop. "What I'm trying to do is document history while at the same time taking the listener on a lyrical journey through current events, painting a crystal clear picture so not to confuse the message."

CHIP MURRAY ChipMurray.com

■ Murray, a singer-songwriter who sounds like a right-wing Bob Dylan (complete with harmonica and poetic lyrics), has been playing guitar for four decades, but his songwriting took a right turn after "listening to Obama's transformational rhetoric," then attending his first tea party rally.

His music was featured on the site Breitbart.com and he performed at an event at the Meadowlands Sports Complex in New Jersey. "I don't know any other way to write other than to



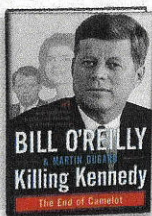
RIGHT WAY Toots Sweet, left, and Chip Murray perform in New York.



BOOK

Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot

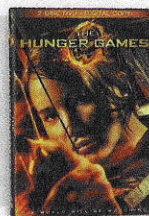
By Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard
Explores what led Lee Harvey Oswald to kill John F. Kennedy.
Release date: Oct. 16, 2012
(Holt, Henry & Co., \$28)



DVD

The Hunger Games

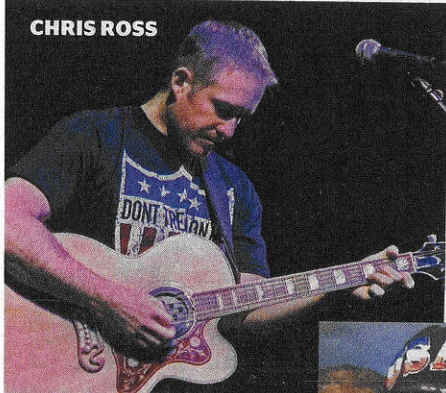
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence
In a dystopian future, Katniss Everdeen competes in a competition to the death.
Release date: Aug. 18, 2012
(Lionsgate, \$30.98)



empty myself and let the words and music speak my heart," Murray says. "It's important for everyone to engage. Period. Whatever God put us here to do, now is the time to step to the plate and do it . . . conservatism is about to become the new hip!"

In his song, "The Ballad of John Hall," he sings, "I will not turn the other cheek; I will not walk away. To live and die for liberty, she'll rise again one day."

CHRIS ROSS



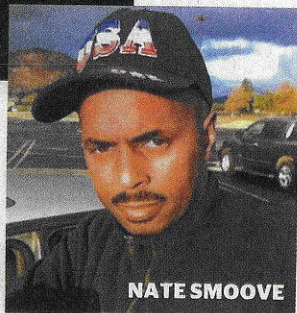
NATE SMOOVE

NateSmooove.com

■ In his song "Black Republican," Smoove raps how he "was born a Democrat" but took a right turn after starting a business in 1989 then listening "to a cat named Rush Limbaugh."

"The left are masters of using music to sway people to their way of thinking . . . we have to use the same tools," says Smoove. "My lyrics are laser-beamed on the issues. No one can hear me when I'm subtle!"

His song "Thug Politics" begins with: "Wake up America. Open your eyes. This is one of them songs that the libs in the drive-by media doesn't want you to hear. They don't want you hip to their game, because if you really understood what their agenda was, you would immediately recognize that they are all insane."



NATE SMOOVE

LISA MEI NORTON

BigDawgMusicMafia.com

■ A co-founder of the Big Dawg Music Mafia website and a retired U.S. Air Force senior master sergeant, Norton has appeared at The Free Republic National Convention, the National Tea Party Convention, and other conservative gatherings.

"Subtle only works if you are slowly trying to indoctrinate folks — like the left has done rather successfully," says Norton, whose mellow songs bridge the country and folk music genres.

Example: Her song "Enemy Number One" begins: "They're calling us right-wing extremists, and they mock us on TV cause we're united to defend our Constitution and fight against tyranny. We are proud, God-fearing Americans who cling to our faith and our guns, so now they have the Feds all watching us like we're enemy number one."

CHRIS ROSS

ChrisRossMusic.com

■ Ross is fairly new to music, cutting his first CD in 2003, but his sound is reminiscent of Harry Chapin and other singers-songwriters of

the 1970s. He started on his first conservative song, "Freedom," in 2007. Since then, Glenn Beck and other talk-radio hosts have played it on the air.

Before the end of the year, he'll have two new albums: *I Believe* and *The Story of Freedom*.

"The time to worry about being politically correct is over," Ross says. "I want to reach all people in singing about the same radical ideas of individual liberty and freedom that our forefathers founded this country on."

In his song, "Restoring Honor," he says: "My dear America, you just find your spirit. Restore your soul, I know you can hear it." □

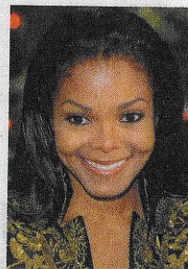
SHORTS

GREEN LANTERN COMES OUT

► DC Comics has re-launched the Green Lantern, first introduced in 1940. But now, instead of a married father of two, he is a young man with a boyfriend. "He's still the pinnacle of bravery and idealism; he's also gay," writer James Robinson told the *New York Post*. The move to make comic books more "inclusive" follows gay weddings in Archie Comics and in a Marvel X-Men book.

JANET JACKSON'S 'TRUTH'

► Janet Jackson, the sister of deceased pop star Michael Jackson, will executive produce and appear in *Truth*, a documentary about transgender people in various parts of the world. The movie, from Brainchild Films, will be directed by Robert Jason, who already made a TV documentary about transgender New Yorkers.



MEL GIBSON'S FATHER SEEKS DIVORCE

► Mel Gibson's 93-year-old father, Hutton, has filed for divorce from his wife of 10 years, Teddy Joye, claiming the 78-year-old woman is physically abusing him. Reportedly, Hutton is asking Joye for spousal support. According to TMZ, Joye is upset that the Oscar-winning filmmaker behind *Braveheart* and *The Passion of the Christ* has been prolonging his dad's life through medication.

THE NEW NORMAL?

► NBC is looking to cash in on the success of ABC's *Modern Family*, a sitcom focusing on dysfunctional families, with *The New Normal*. The show features a gay couple's travails as they start a family via surrogate. The show is slated for this fall. □