

Greetings, thanks for your interest!

Overview: I have some specific ideas for this project, so I'm sketching this in detail. I'm looking for two or three other players who can really buy into this: guitar, percussion, and possibly vocals.

About me: I'm a decent bassist who can play a bit of guitar. For the last five years or so I've been mostly in jazz (on the upright), with the French Toast Quartet. We played 7-8 gigs a year. Folded a year ago. Can't sing, but can do fairly decent spoken word. I have good (not pro) recording and mixing skills. I'm 62, single w/o kids, and retired. Liberal, which is important in the context of this project (more below). Weed friendly but not during practice or performance.

About the project: I'm a news junkie and I've always been interested in protest music. So I decided to start writing protest and social/political issue songs dealing with current events. Liberal perspective. Six of the nine tunes demoed here were written and recorded at my home studio over the course of about six weeks. Three are from an earlier project. With 30 seconds or so of talk to frame and intro the songs (important) these nine could comprise about 35 minutes of stage time (more with soloing). These are to be originals, but we might nail a couple "signature" covers. We'll struggle with the band name later. Should be something that fits folk-rock and thematically represents social issue driven music. Zietgeist might be good conceptually, except it sounds like a German thrash metal thing.

About the material: In terms of genre I like progressive folk-rock fusion, which apparently is an actual thing. My approach in these quick-and-dirty demos is not set in stone. We'll work out our influences and approach as a group. But something along the lines of Arlo Guthrie, Seeger, Dylan. Keep the music fairly basic, let the lyrics work. The Style Playlist has some reference material, loosely sourced. I found one contemporary act that is a good content reference, although not the sound: David Rovics. There are two links for some of his extensive work.

Performance: I see this as a potentially viable opening act targeting shows/venues that would be appropriate for this kind of material. We can test fly at open mics and poetry slams. We'll also record and release an EP, make a promo video, website etc. We can do some promotional marketing toward relevant groups. Given these ramp-up tasks and seasonal booking we might not get an actual gig for a while. All proceeds will go to the food bank (walk the walk).

Seeking: A decent folk-rock guitarist who ideally also writes and would want to collaborate on creating songs of this ilk. Vocals/Spoken Word a plus. Mostly acoustic to start. A percussionist who can bring some mix of Cajon, bongos, conga, etc. plus some light snare/tom to the mix. If a trio can gel, that might do it. But depending on the M/F mix a female vocalist who could blend with male spoken word might be very cool. This music is pretty simple so you don't need mad chops. Performance experience is important. Passion is more important. There needs to be a demographic fit to make this work. Older is probably better. You'll need to have some time to put into this.

Process: First, let me know you might be interested. Review the songs and other materials here. Pick three songs. Download the lyrics, chords, and backing tracks. Work up your part. When you're ready we'll set up a meeting. If you have written/recorded anything you think would fit, or would like to do so for this, send it. Ideally we might go over one or more of your tunes as well. If you have any other recordings do send. Not in a rush.

Potential Ideas: To round-out/beef up current set and EP: **Labor:** unions, essential workers. **Education:** school boards, bathrooms, history, CRT. **Pandemic:** just one very long ballad (think Alice's Restaurant). **Environment:** wolves, clean water, plastics, biodiversity. **Climate:** mega drought (good night Lake Meade), glaciers, sea level. **Economics:** food waste, cryptocurrency, inflation/recession. **Democracy:** right to vote, election day, broken senate, the supreme court (I like beer). **Conspiracies:** The Big Lie <https://www.livescience.com/11375-top-ten-conspiracy-theories.html>. **Politics:** Corruption, Hypocrisy, Power, health care, gun control, abortion, Rudy. **Culture:** woke me up when it's over, canceled.

Album: If this flies, down the road I'd like to explore writing an album based on the film/book by Noam Chomsky: Requiem for the American Dream (The 10 Principles of Concentration of Wealth and Power). There's a link on the page for this. Ten songs, one for each chapter: Reduce Democracy, Shape Ideology, Redesign the Economy, Shift the Burden, Attack Solidarity, Run the Regulators, Engineer Elections, Manufacture Consent, Marginalize the Population.

Questions: Craig Trumbo ctrumbo@mac.com