

ryan fitzsimmons



“As one of the new breed of young New England singer/songwriters, Ryan Fitzsimmons is the real deal. I happened to catch him as an opening act one night and was knocked out by his singing, songwriting, guitar playing, and poise. He has the chops and smarts to go somewhere and I look forward to catching him again soon when someone else is opening for HIM!”

- Barnes Newberry, host of Highway 61 Revisited, Folk Radio WUMB Boston MA

A relative newcomer to Providence, RI, Ryan Fitzsimmons won the Providence regional final of the NEMO/Starbucks songwriting competition, and won RI Motif's reader's poll "Best Male Vocalist" in 2005. Ryan is simply the kind of musician who impresses immediately.

Originally from central New York, Ryan Fitzsimmons' first exposure to music was sitting on the stairs in his parent's house as a child, listening to his older brother Todd practice blues licks along to Muddy Waters albums. He fell in love with the sound, and playing guitar became simply what he had to do. Ryan first gained attention at age 14 playing lead guitar in an alternative rock band called Anodyne which was nominated for a Syracuse Area Music Award (SAMMY). But after performing in a number of electric bands, Ryan decided to give up the amplifiers to see what he could do with just wood and steel and voice. What he discovered in performing solo with an acoustic guitar was an intimacy and nuance he found instantly inspiring.

Bringing to the fold his years of electric guitar playing and using innovative alternate tunings, Ryan Fitzsimmons' acoustic world runs the emotional gambit. The lyrics of Ryan's songs range from gentle, poetic details to the in-your-face realism of a bar fight, and his guitar ranges just as far, from starry night to thunderclap.

Over the last 5 years, Ryan has quietly been establishing a reputation as one of the most original and promising young songwriters on the scene today. Playing shows from Montana to New England (including venues such as Caffe Lena in Saratoga Springs, NY; Club Passim in Cambridge, MA, and the Narrows Center for the Arts in Fall River, MA) Ryan has been engaging audiences with his distinctive songwriting and dynamic performances. Along the way, Ryan has shared the stage with performers Ben Folds, Greg Brown, Richie Havens, Jesse Winchester, John Hammond Jr., and Peter Mulvey, among others.

Ryan's first CD, *Open All Night*, is the long-awaited companion to his live show. The album is a statement of Ryan's history, and in it Ryan takes all the diners, gas stations, smoky bars, and side streets that he's come across and extracts the human element, drawing the listener in with the questions and emotions that these places resonate. The album also features collaborations with many of Ryan's friends, including a subtle give-and-take with Peter Mulvey on the song "Write it Down". Delivered with Ryan's inspired guitar playing and dynamic presentation, *Open All Night* (voted Best Local CD of 2005 in the RI Motif reader's poll) proves what has been exciting audiences at Ryan's live performances for years.

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