



Welcome

This is our 4th edition of Can-Do Musical Notes, our first for 2014!!!

This issue of Can-Do Musical Notes the cover story is an inspirational story from Dan Shinder from Drum Talk TV. Dan recently visited Ed Francis and some of his special needs students at Round Rock Drums in Round Rock, Texas.

The featured artist in this issue is a drummer from Beckley, West Virginia, Shawn Wells. Shawn was born with Amnyoplasia Congenita, a form of Arthrogryposis. He is a drummer and drum teacher, and plays regularly with his band Core.

The issue also features stories from Joey Stuckey from Georgia and Jesper Odleberg from Sweden.

As of the 1st February 2014, our website has 82 musos featured from Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela.

That number continues to grow daily.



**Having a
"Can-Do" attitude
is the first step
toward success!!**

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Ed Francis' Round Rock Drums event was called "Shake, Rattle & Roll." The event featured 40 kids performing mostly on drum kits, and people from the local special needs community of Round Rock Texas.

Can-Do News



Well done to Can-Do Musos board member [David Segal](#) on his debut performance at Carnegie Hall on Friday 24th January 2014. The performance was part of the [China Meets America](#) Cultural Festival.



A big congratulations to Can-Do Musos member, drummer [Carlos Guevara](#) who was recently included on the bill for the Costa Rica Drum Fest. This is being held 9th March 2014. For more information, please check out www.sandersmusicacademy.com



Congrats not only for being mentioned on the front cover, but an awesome interview in [Drumscene magazine](#) for Sydney's Can-Do Musos member [Kiel Van Daal](#). Kiel has mild Cerebral Palsy and plays drums all over Australia with his band [Marlow](#).



Congratulations to Can-Do Musos member [Joe Hardy](#) for being nominated and appearing in [Rockwell Unscene's](#) Best Drummers of 2013 list. Check out Joe with his band [Unit 287](#).



Congratulations to Can-Do Musos board member [Andrew Hewitt](#) for being nominated for Australian of the Year 2014. Although Andrew didn't make it as a finalist, he says *"It's more of an honor to be nominated"*. Andrew is also planning another trek to the USA at the end of 2014, he has applied to do a drum clinic at [PASIC 2014](#) in Indianapolis. The conference runs from November 19th-22nd.



It's NAMM time again in Anaheim, California. Can-Do Musos were represented by [Dom Famularo](#), [David Segal](#), [Dean Zimmer](#), [Mark Goffeney](#) with his band Big Toe, and [Joe Hardy](#) with his band Unit 287.

Cover Note: Ed Francis brings his magic to Drum Talk TV by [Dan Shinder](#)

To me, every Drum Talk TV interview is loaded with value. That's what we do. Our philosophy is simple: "Not all lessons come from sitting at a practice pad or behind a drum kit. Many lessons can be learned by listening with an open mind to discussions and the sharing of knowledge and different perspectives based on their unique experiences."

In October of 2013 I went to Round Rock Texas for a Drum Talk TV special featuring Ed Francis of [Round Rock Drums](#). I had no idea what I was in for, as far as "lessons." Oh, I prepare for interviews, and this being a one-hour special with many layers to it, I certainly prepared. Ed Francis and I had been following one another on Facebook and YouTube for a year. I knew what he was doing, I knew what he was about and I knew there was a story there; an extraordinary story. I never thought the word "extraordinary" could prove to be an understatement.

In short, here is a quick synopsis of the special featuring Ed Francis: Ed's Round Rock Drums event was called "Shake, Rattle & Roll." I interviewed Ed in front of a live audience on his philosophies of teaching drumming – being a "Drum Coach," as he insists, as well as on the methodology that gives him such great results with his students.



Next, forty kids performed—mostly on drum kits, the rest on snare drums with a six-year-old little girl playing a bucket (I joined her)—in unison and with many solo breaks. Toward the end, Ed and I join in and run around an area in front of the large ensemble, while we bang on all sorts of random drums and cymbals. After that performance, which honestly was jaw-dropping, Ed invited everyone to come up and play on anything they wanted. Five members of the special needs community each took a turn. Ed is an absolute magician—and the magic that was created before my eyes and ears was indeed extraordinary.

Most remarkable was that it was such an organic event—it all occurred so naturally. After Ed asked who wanted to come up, each of these special needs individuals did so, taking to him immediately as he did to them and then...they each simply *played!*

It was amazing.

When I asked Ed in the interview, "... in those 23 years of your teaching, what has evolved the most in your teaching and what has been the biggest benefit to the students out of that evolution?" Ed's answer reflected one theme: "Relationships." Ed explained that it's his balance between putting more genuine emphasis on caring about the kids as individuals and building that relationship as a friend, and being their Drum Coach whom they look up to.

Ed emphasized that it's important to treat the expectations of special needs community as you would of any community. He said, "If you give that same expectation to people with limitations, the same expectation you give everyone else, even if they have special needs, they will rise and they will meet that challenge no matter what it is. And I've seen it day after day."



Can-Do Musical Notes

[Click here](http://www.drumtalktv.com/ed-francis/) to see a preview of the magic between Ed and all the wonderful kids who participated in the event. The full length episode can be found at www.drumtalktv.com/ed-francis/ Tap in and soak up some magic. It will absolutely put a lift in your day, if not the rest of your life.

(Dan Shinder has been an avid supporter of Can-Do Musos since his Drum Talk TV interview with [Joe Hardy](#). Dan has also interviewed [Dom Famularo](#) as part of the Drum Talk TV Bonzo Bash, and an upcoming interview with Australian drummer Andrew Hewitt)

Check out <http://drumtalktv.com/> for more interviews

Music making or a religious experience? by [Joey Stuckey](#)

I have always said that music is the closest thing we will ever experience in this life to the language of the angels. Even if you aren't particularly religious, it is hard to define music outside of something miraculous or divine.

In 2002 I got the job of directing a musical at the local college, coincidentally it was the Rocky Horror Picture Show, as a blind person, I thought, who better to direct a bunch of people in drag, but, I digress.

Anyway, shortly after accepting this responsibility, I was told that I had a total hip decay in my right hip and things were looking bad for me to walk again. I spent about 6 months in a wheelchair and this on top of being blind would be enough to get anyone down. The hip problem along with my blindness and a few other health issues come from my brain tumor I had removed as an infant, but, though the tumor is gone, its effects remain with a plethora of issues to overcome on a daily basis. I have amazing family and friends, but, the other component of keeping my spirits up and my mind on positivity is music!



To make a long story short, I directed that musical in great pain from a wheelchair and I did walk again, but, I have a lot of chronic pain issues with my hip and back, however, I have developed a great technique for dealing with the pain and other issues from the brain tumor. It is all a question of focus. I use music to take my mind to another world where there is no pain, just the joy of melody and rhythm. I use complex music, like jazz, I am thinking of Miles Davis or Coltrane here, to focus my mind on the things happening in the music. After about 15 minutes of concentration on the music and its beauty... I no longer feel the pain with a bite, it is more distant and under my control of choosing to not perceive it. After this morning ritual of meditation on music, I am able to go about my day and keep my focus on the great work I am doing as a music educator and producer/sound engineer, not on hurting.

In this way, music is a powerful tool for healing and freedom! We could talk about the way music inspires us or how it crosses over language barriers or how even the ancient Greeks used specific music to give soldiers bravery or artist inspiration... but, for me, it doesn't get better than the personal way in which it acts as my buffer from pain.

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[Jesper Odelberg](#) - A new year ahead

Jesper Odelberg is richer than Jesus, slimmer than Buddha and more portrayed than Muhammed. Jesper Odelberg is a Swedish stand-up comedian, lecturer, debater, actor, musician. Born in 1970 and has been a well known artist in Sweden since 1997.

Last year, Jesper started writing his own music and has together with the seasoned musicians Göran Berg, Michael Krönlein and Gunnar Frick formed the Jesper Odelberg Band. Their show "*The burden of a normal functioning human*" is a personal show with music and Standup bidding on Jesper's self-written songs, special interpretations of others' songs True Stories from a sometimes harsh reality and of course, lots of humor.

This show is now more important than ever! One reason for that is because, in the end of last year, the Swedish program "Cold Facts" exposed how commons around Sweden had hired private consultants to get support to refuse people with disabilities support according to the LSS-law. (The Swedish Act concerning Support and Service for Persons with Certain Functional Impairments) Jesper is fighting on to get his stories out!

This month Jesper and his band will for the first time record an EP. "*The goal is to make an album, but that is a bigger project coming in the future.*" says Jesper. He has a lot of new projects planned for 2014, but many of them are still secret.

So if you are curious, follow Jesper on [facebook](#), and you will soon find out...



Can-Do Featured Muso - Shawn Wells

Shawn Wells is a drummer who lives in Beckley, West Virginia. Shawn says "I've been a drummer for 27 years, drums are my passion!" He lives with Amnyplopasia Congenita which is a form of Arthrogryposis. He says "I have no hip or knee joints and my hands are fused at my wrists." Shawn is married and has 3 beautiful children. Shawn says "When I was young I wanted to be a drummer and I wasn't going to let my differences stop me from doing what I wanted

to do... and that was being a drummer!" His influences are Lars Ulrich, Mike Portnoy, Buddy Rich, Simon Phillips, and John Bonham. Shawn says, "How I started was me grabbing pots and pans and cake spoons when I was 3, then my mom figured I better get him a drum. *She got me a bongo drum and I played that so much I wore a hole in it. I was 5 when I got my first drum set.*

Currently, Shawn plays with a local indie band called Core.



Shawn's Fast Five

1. What started you playing music?

I come from a musical family. Music is in my blood. I started playing on pots at the age of three, however annoying it may have been to my mother, I loved that I could create sound. At the age of five I received my first real drum kit. I loved the control I had to make a beat. To come up with a fresh groove all my own.

2. What are you working on at the moment?

I'm currently in a band that was created by myself and my very closest friend. We call ourselves Core. We are working on recording our second album. As the first was a learning experience I'm positive that our next will be that much better. I'm in the process of trying to get a new drum stick idea up and moving forward. And enjoying my time spent playing at home with my two boys. One of which seems very eager to learn the trade. That makes for one happy dad!

3. Had any bad gigs? Any funny gig stories?

As with all things no show every goes off without a hitch. Coming from a small town you never know what kind of crowd to expect. Bars hire bands hoping to bring in more revenue. That's not always a positive thing in a small town such as the one I reside in, a small bar close to home. My band at the time was pumped and ready to share our music. However the crowd had other plans. They preferred a DJ. To listen to the same songs that you can hear in any dance club over and over. Let's just say by our second set we were packing up to leave. A few years ago in another band I was part of were hired to play a Halloween party at a public venue. We were asked to come in costume. My wife decided it would be a funny idea to dress me up like a lady. Let's just say I did it up. Even down to a stuffed bra. I sweated more in that show than I ever did before. I never knew how hard it would be to play with two whooping D's in between my arms. I pulled thru to finish the show just to stand up to give a standing ovation and my skirt falls to my ankles.

Guess you really can't be embarrassed with a room full of people who have had a good few

4. Who inspires you? Who are your heroes?

My inspirations from a very young age was Lars Ulrich. I loved how recognizable his drumming was. You could tell a Metallica song coming on just by his style of drumming. I think that sets him apart. Which is what I wanted. To have my own sound. To make drums a lead instrument, as I felt he did.

"I want to
INSPIRE people
I want someone to
LOOK AT ME and SAY
Because of you,
I NEVER GAVE UP!



Check out Shawn's band CORE on facebook and find out more about Shawn's drumming. CORE can also be found at Reverb Nation

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Shawn's Fast Five (continued)

5. What is your biggest challenge as a musician, in what way have you had to adapt your playing to work around your challenges?

As with any musician there are always obstacles. For starters, I'm a lefty which has presented challenges. I can't just jump behind someone else's kit and begin to play. I have to turn everything around. Having arthrogryposis has presented challenges as well. Such as not being able to bend my knees. Not being able to move my ankles to play my bass drums. The power and speed to play the bass has to come from my hips. I also had to develop my own way of holding my sticks, as the traditional way won't work for me. I have such a passion for drums, that I would not let anything hold me back. Every time that I'm presented with a challenge, I find my own way to make it work.

What's cool on Can-Do Youtube



California's [Joe Hardy](#) performing at [NAMM 2014](#) at Anaheim



Sydney Australia's [Kiel Van Daal](#) and Marlow with a Nine Inch Nails cover [Gave Up](#)



From Canada [Karl Sloman](#) and [Train Wreck the Band](#) with Neil Peart from RUSH on [Walk The Walk](#)

The Final Note

Over the last month I have seen some incredibly talented and gifted people who are challenged. It has been awe-inspiring, to say the least. The many performances and videos I have watched lead me to two words: perseverance and passion. As legendary drummer John Riley says, "we have a gift"; and I would add, the gift to strive for excellence and achievement in the face of what initially appears to be overwhelming obstacles. May we continue on...

Please spread the word...there are many great musicians with challenges and we want to give them all a chance to be seen and heard!

Til next time!

The Can-Do Musos Team

If Can-Do Musos members have any musical news, gigs, or stories they would like to share in the next issue of *Can-Do Musical Notes*, please email us at candomusos@gmail.com

Please visit our website at <http://www.candomusos.com>