

CAN-DO MUSOS

The global voice for challenged musicians
from all over the world

By Andrew Hewitt

On the 15th March 2013, Dom Famularo had suggested meeting at his drum studio to have a summit of sorts, discuss drums and issues we had been dealing with as "challenged" or "disabled" musicians.

There was something there previously, but it wouldn't be crystallized until we all were together that day. What if we all came together and formed an organization that could empower all "challenged" musicians, whether it be physical, intellectual, mental health, speech, vision or hearing impairments from all over the world.

So on a cold New York day, -2C (31F) and snow, Drummers Dom Famularo (<http://www.domfamularo.com>), David Segal (<http://www.davidsegaldrums.com>) from New York - who lives with a condition called Arthrogryposis - Mike Mignogna (<http://www.lookmanofeet.com>) from Tennessee who lives with Cerebral Palsy and Andrew Hewitt (<http://www.drummerstix.com.au>) from Sydney Australia who also lives with Cerebral Palsy, came together to throw around some ideas.

During the meeting the frustrations of being a musician with challenges were discussed, how so much talent gets overlooked because of a disability. We decided there and then we wanted to change people's view of how they see a musician with a disability - to encourage talent rather than discourage.

In fact, on our website, we hardly use the term disability, because sadly people often see it as an inability. Dom, David, Mike and myself decided we wanted to make a difference.

This was when Can-Do Musos was born. Can-Do Musos was established to provide support and showcase musicians living with a disability, no matter what playing level or instrument. Our website has musicians from all walks of life, from home players to full touring pro musicians.

In 2014, we added drummer Joe Hardy to the Can-Do Musos board. Joe is a drummer from California who was born with no legs.

The Can-Do Musos board meet each month on Skype. Two years on, our website features 197 musicians from 22 countries which we refer to as the Can-Do Musos family. We think that takes a more personal approach than just calling them members. On our website we share our unique stories, music and the achievements of each of our family members. We also share up to date things on social media via Face book and Twitter.

As well as our family members, we also have the support of an international advisory committee, which is helping us spread the word about Can-Do Musos across the globe. Our advisory board consist of internationally renowned drummers and percussionists such as: Pino Bertolini, Gregg Bissonette, Claudia Chambers, Aldo Mazza, Mark Schulman and Karl Sieman.

In January 2015, we held a panel discussion at The NAMM Show in Anaheim, California and included on our panel was drummer Dean Zimmet, who also has arthrogryposis, and guitarist Mark Goffney, who was born with no arms and plays with his feet.

Recently we launched the Can-Do Radio Show which I host. It's broadcast every Wednesday night via Pino Bertolini's Drum Talk Radio (<http://www.drumtalkradio.com>) and then Podcasted for the rest of the world (<http://candoradio.podomatic.com>)

In 2016 we are launching Can-Do Musos TV - a bi-monthly TV show playing videos from the Can-Do Musos family.

Can-Do Musos have also been invited back to host another presentation at The NAMM Show in January 2016. We are currently running a fundraiser on GoFundMe to assist with the costs of putting it together. The link to the fundraiser is <https://www.gofundme.com/candomusos>

We are always looking for new family members living with any sort of challenge to share their stories on our site. We figure the more stories we share, the more people will stand up and take notice of what we CAN-DO.

If anyone is interested, Can-Do Musos is FREE to join. Any musician living with a disability can send us an email at info@candomusos.com or fill in their details on the form on the front of our website.

<http://www.candomusos.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/CanDoMusos>

<https://twitter.com/candomusos>

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