

Dom Famularo

What's your message



Music is very powerful! When you listen to music, you can lift yourself. When you perform music, you can send other people to a higher place! There is great responsibility with this gift!

I believe everyone on this planet is here for a reason! I further believe the reason is to share your message....whatever your message is! Finding your message...that is the real journey!

What do you want people to say about you? I call this question the 'Tombstone Test'. Imagine if you could hear what people would be saying at your funeral! How you live your life right now will determine what your friends and loved ones will say later! How you behave, what you say and how you're leading your life now...does that reflect what you want them to say? So how I live, how I respect my music and how I share my music is my message! For me, music is a major part of my life. This is one of the things I want them to be talking about! My passion and dedication to my music!

In order to live the life you want, there has to be constant behaviour and attitude awareness. I observed there are three types of people in this world...The first type are those that make waves: the wave makers! They take action no matter what the challenges are. The second are the wave riders. They wait until a good wave is happening...then they jump on. The third type are the people that spend all their time looking for the beach! Which one do you fit into? Only if you are honest with yourself can you find your place.

Personal growth is like road construction. It's always in progress! It's an ongoing process that I work on everyday. I feel there should be a very strong sense of morals: knowing the

difference between right and wrong and putting this into action is everything! Having strong ethics, principles, and morals are the foundation to a very successful journey! I see it this way... My life is written in pencil; my dreams are written in pen; and my values are carved in stone! This is true self-empowerment!

Empowerment means to Give Power! I cannot make you happy unless I am first happy. I cannot love you, until I first love myself; I cannot empower you until I first empower myself! So the first part of knowing my message, is to have a very strong foundation to build success on! The ultimate journey is to discover yourself. If I am lucky, it will take a lifetime!

To respect music can be done in a few ways! First understand your desire and passion, because music is a gift. Learning my instrument and working to be the best I can be, is a way to honour this gift! Taking lessons, listening to many styles of music, going to hear clinics and asking questions are very important. Going out to hear as many different types of bands is a great way to see how other musicians express their gift. Checking out as many DVD's as you can is also helpful! Work with as many drum books as you can to learn new grooves, fills, patterns, independence, reading, improvisation, soloing and musical interpretation! All of these are ways to respect your music! Each of these ways will open you up and help you to discover and uncover your talent! Discover what you didn't know was there and uncover what you thought was there but was not coming out! Sharing your message...this is the part that completes the cycle! Yes, it is all a cycle. As you learn, and share...you will receive knowledge in return. When you share your talent, the listener will also learn and be inspired. Other people are also on a journey of self-empowerment, so they want to hear your message. If your message is to inspire people to aspire, then hang on for the ride! This means you must be concerned about what other people will feel! This is called compassion - to feel what other people feel! To achieve this, you must have a huge amount of humility and keep your ego in control!

I have met many musicians who behave as if they were above other people. They seem to think they are so much better! This is their ego out of control! There will always be better and lesser players than you! Just try to be the best person and player you can be! In my experience, when you do this, everything else falls into place!

Humility is the best choice to make! It means you know there will always be someone better than you and you want to keep on trying to work on self-improvement. Humility will guide you to always trying to be the best player you can be! Louie Bellson, the great drummer, arranger, band leader

and legend is a great example of humility. Every time I speak to him, he lets me know he is practising and working on something new! He is constantly asking me questions about double bass drumming and he was the one who invented it! Louie is 82 years young! How inspiring that is! Another great example is Steve Gadd. I recently spent some time with Steve. He was expressing his desire to make sure he plays his best! He spoke of how he respected his audience so much that playing his best was the way to honour them. He then went on stage and just about gave blood! Afterward we spoke again and he asked if it went OK! I was so impressed with his concern and compassion for everyone in the audience! These are two amazing examples of humility from legends that are at the top! These masters inspire me greatly.

Sharing your talent is the ultimate journey! Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined! Play for everyone... for your family, your friends, your church...anyone! You will learn about yourself and your instrument. You will grow. And if you make a mistake...make it loud and clear! Believe in what you are doing! This way you will learn what to do as well as what not to do! You are the leader in your life! If the leader is slightly out of focus, the followers will be blind! First, you need to know before you go - have a clear direction of where you want to end. Second, strategize - make a plan to follow that will lead you to your dreams. Third, stay on course - everyday do something that will get you closer to where you want to be! Your message is important to everyone. You are a piece of the musical puzzle. Keep working toward the bigger picture. Your talent is needed and your message will be heard like a rim shot heard around the world! I am excited to hear and feel your message, so I can continue to learn and fine-tune my message! I look forward to seeing you along the way! The adventure continues.

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