

BE INVOLVED AND GET INSPIRED!

By Dom Famularo



I believe to really understand anything you must be fully involved in order to experience the journey. There are many music and drumming events worldwide. These conventions, festivals, carnivals and shows open up our minds while opening doors of opportunities!

When I was 24, I heard about a music convention called NAMM, The National Association for Music Merchants, (www.namm.org). Anyone involved in the music industry attends: manufacturers, distributors, retail music store merchants, book publishers, authors, magazines, artists, promoters and dedicated music lovers. There are company booths to check out new products, performances to hear the products and top artists signing autographs for fans.

I attended at 24 years old in 1978, not really knowing what to expect, but I thought, 'If I want to be involved in the music industry, I need to research and learn.'

That first year I was really overwhelmed. I was seeing new gear, meeting top drummers, seeing music legends walk around and hearing inspiring performances that I still remember today.

Held in January, I have attended NAMM in Anaheim California every year since. This is a better place to be for a week of nice warm weather, than being in the extremely cold New York winter! This year, being my 40th consecutive NAMM show attendance, I have been inspired every year, seeing new gear, meeting friends and continuing to make fantastic contacts globally!

Frankfurt, in Germany, also has a music convention every year in April: The Musikmesse. Even China has a huge convention in October, in Shanghai. Each country tries to have a show like these, with some held every other year and

some once every five years. I have performed in each of them.

Another yearly event held in November in Indianapolis, USA, is PASIC: the Percussive Arts Society International Convention. This organization has been around for over 50 years. I have attended since 1979 to meet drummers in all styles of percussion: Drum set, drum corps and classical. There is an exhibit hall to see new drumming products, new books from all publishers, clinics from top artists all day and seminars to hear inspiring stories and new ideas. (Check out www.pas.org).

There are many drumming events and festivals worldwide. I visit:

- In Spain: The La Rioja International Drumming Festival by Alberto Cuevas www.facebook.com/lariojadrummingfestival/
- In Diest, Belgium: 'DrumFest' by Adams Drum Shop
- In San Paolo, Brazil: 'Batuka International Drum Festival' by Vera Fuigeurida
- In Paris, France: 'Bat Night' by LaBaguetterie
- In Shenzhen, China: 'Drum Fest' - I was there last year with Dave Weckl
- In Amsterdam, Holland, 'Drummer Fest' by Adams Music World
- In Quebec City, Canada: 'Drum Fest' by Ralph Angelillo,
- In Vancouver, Canada: Drum Festival by Murry Creed,
- In London, England: 'London Drum Show'
- In Birmingham England: 'Birmingham Drum Show'
- In Seattle, Washington, USA: 'Woodstick Festival' - over 600 people with their drum sets playing together!
- In Wisconsin, USA: Cascio Music Drum Fest, I played recently with Omar Hakim, Brian Fraser Moore and Thomas Lang.

There are events in Porto, Portugal; Rome, Italy; Mexico City, Mexico; Budapest, Hungary; Stockholm, Sweden; Mannheim, Germany, at the Pop Academie; Kiev, Ukraine - and Moscow, Russia.

Search the Internet for all these festivals! There is so much information and great pictures and video!

Basel, Switzerland has had a drumming carnival since 1376 - for three days, every year... imagine the long tradition of this village! Musicians in costumes and head masks parade in the streets playing fife and drums. I attended in February of this year. About 18,000 musicians marched the streets... constantly for three days! Thousands of people gather to celebrate the end of winter and welcome the spring.

It begins at 4 AM and all city lights are shut down with the musicians carrying lights on their heads. This is a must to witness. It has been said, that this is where drumming began to formalize the art form. Swiss triplets and other rudiments started here, then spread through Europe then onto America and to the world. I will, for sure, return to take in the feeling of our drumming community united for centuries and capture the history of where we came from!

This next one is in your own backyard!!! Australia's Ultimate Drummers Weekend; AUDW in Melbourne. Produced by Frank Corniola, this is one of my favourite festivals! AUDW combines it all: concerts, workshops, product showcase, artists' signings and great discounts!

Plus! Australia's Best Up & Coming Drummer Competition, includes categories for Junior, Intermediate, Open Age, and Best Female Drummer. HUGE!

I will attend again this August to celebrate the 25th AUDW edition! Imagine... 25 years of the top drummers in the world all meeting in Melbourne!!! This is the longest and most dedicated drumming event on this planet! I have been honoured to perform this show many years and get excited to meet many drummers who share the same passion!

I ask you to get involved and attend! See the best drummers of our time, ask questions, get inspired and be involved!

The drumming community worldwide is a unique family. No other instrument has as many events as we do! Drummers share... drummers continue to learn... drummers get together to spread their knowledge and secure the future generations of a fun healthy drum industry!

In any country you live, search for an event to attend!

I can assure you, it will be a fun time and a great networking experience.

I ask you to come, support and say, 'Hello!' to all these events around the world. I can guarantee you will be excited and you will learn!

I know you will have the time of your life! Make sure you find me at AUDW and come up to me and prove me right!

Thanks for reading this and stepping into my world.

Our drumming adventures continue...

Dom Famularo
Drumming's Global Ambassador

For more details visit:
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