

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

By Dom Famularo Photos By Mandy Hall



As a constant drumming student, I always put myself in situations where I could learn. Attending live performances, clinics, festivals, and conventions and also meeting with players better than me... Fantastic! Anything to learn!

Sometimes it is difficult to tell the difference between a drumming camp and a drumming festival. Many are similar... but they are all great!

I have attended many events where learning is the message. It is exciting to receive questions from students of all ages. This says to me they have come with an open mind! At many of my events I ask, "Who here has an open mind?" Many times not all the participants raise their hands. That usually means, 1) they do not have an open mind or 2) they did not understand the question!

To learn and grow...

That is why we attend: to stretch our minds, learn, experience new ideas, explore some techniques and push ourselves to the next level. One does not go to the next level by chance! This happens with an open mind to learn, adapt and change! When you grow with

new challenges, the level you want to achieve gets closer! To get to that next level must have growth from within you and your craft. You grow and the level gets clearer!

One event I attended from the start is KoSA. Aldo Mazza is a wonderful performer and educator in Montreal, Canada. He and his multi-musically talented wife, Jolan, put their skills together to create an environment in which to learn.

For 20 years I attended each North

with so much going on! These are the candy stores of drumming knowledge! You just have to unleash your curiosity. Currently KoSA is happening in the US, Canada, Europe, China and Cuba. Imagine all these great minds together in one place... this is HUGE!!! Check out www.kosamusic.com.

In April, I was performing at the Chicago Drum Show in the centre of America. Drum booths showing old and new product, clinics with Kenny Aronoff, Danny Seraphine and



American event. Classes from the top drummers and percussionists, classical and marching teachers shared their experience. There is an endless fountain of great information on display. It is part camp/festival/convention

myself. Artists like Pete Magadini and Les DeMerle giving private lessons and several master classes with 25+ students in a class. I was involved with it all. I met many hungry students in search of their next level of playing!

Again, a combination of enticing educational events going on... massive and fun!

Every July in Arizona, Billy Cobham and I put on a Rhythm Section Retreat. Participants get to play with top musicians to learn the process of performing and communicating musically in the moment. Billy is a true legend and has students sitting in with his band! This is coaching at the highest level. Billy and I have created an opportunity to push you to the next level! www.billycobhamretreat.com. Billy then ends the week with his band playing a sold-out concert and the front row is every participant – so they get a close-up look at the performance. He even invites them at the sound check to learn the formula for success in the set up! Now this is really HUGE!

There are Drumeo events in Vancouver, Canada; Mike Johnston events in California and Drum Fantasy Camps in Chicago organized



by Steve Orkin. Do the research and step into a learning curve that will bend and shape your mind!

In Marseille, France, Rob Hirons puts on an in-depth learning journey with me and top French drummers sharing their deep-rooted history of drum set! www.robhirons.com.

In Paris, France, Fred Rimbart at The Drumming Lab www.drumminglab.com also hosts several classes to step into the world of The Power of History. He digs deep into the start of drumming and the techniques learned by all the masters from the masters!

On the Isle of Belle-Île, off the west coast of France, John Helfy Petitjean organizes an intensive weeklong learning adventure. A 45-minute ferry ride to get there... in the middle of nowhere... but you land in Paradise! Many great drummers were there to share and inspire. You can find him on Facebook. Sharing knowledge at its best!

In Canada, Daniel Bédard and Stephane Chamberland have an intensive weekend in Montreal. Jeff Salem in Toronto hosts classes to play along to music and hear your playing back on recording. Murray Creed on Vancouver

Island has a weekend of legends sharing ideas and performing with endless questions and answers. Do the research and track these people down!

In Germany, Percussion Creativ, was started by the German legend Udo Dahman and is now continued by the master Claus Hessler. They began many years ago to push the idea of getting drummers together in one building for a few days and touch upon every aspect of drumming. They cover performing, teaching, different books to use, being an author, knowing the drummers that came before us and group sessions of discussion to answer any questions. Check out www.percussion-creativ.de.

In Italy, Franco Rossi and Ignazio Di Fresco at the Academy of Modern Music (www.ammnationalschool.it) have yearly gatherings to share ideas and get the students and teachers to play and acquire experience!

Massimo Russo in Calabria also has a weeklong meeting of students to meet each other and learn from the experience of performing together! Check out www.massimorussodrum.it.

In China, there is a school called 9 Beats... 450 locations in over 400 cities with over 6,000 teachers and over 250,000 students... and growing at an amazing rate! Pretty incredible! I have attended many of the summer camps with thousands of students. Mr. Li, the organizer, even had one year on a cruise ship from China to Japan. We taught all day and had shows each evening. This was a first! The drummers in China are so thirsty to learn and be a part of the global drumming community! This was high seas HUGE!

This year, I will be at the 25th Anniversary of 'Australia's Ultimate Drummers Weekend' (AUDW), www.drumtek.com.au with Alex Acuña, Benny Greb, Vera Figueiredo, David Jones, Eric Moore, Pete Lockett, Andy Gander, Mark Colenburg and so many more great artists. This is so over-the-top with excitement! Imagine product showcases, clinics, workshops, the live finals of 'Australia's Best Up & Coming Drummer' competitions, autograph signings, drumming intensives and private lessons. Frank Corniola and his team at DRUMtek wraps everything drumming into a complete weekend of music immersion! Come on by, and be willing to crank open your mind and heart to step into the adventure of 21st century education!

Get involved... the worst that can happen is that you learn, feel, meet new people, hear artistic expression, grow personally and musically and arrive at the next level! HUGER than HUGE!!! What a ride...

Thanks for reading...

Dom Famularo
Drumming's Global Ambassador
Onward and Upward
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