



## Welcome

This is our 5th edition of Can-Do Musical Notes, our second for 2014!!!

In this issue of Can-Do Musical Notes our cover story features Eddie Tuduri and The Rhythmic Arts Project, an educational program for people with intellectual and developmental challenges. The program teaches participants to read, spell, count and use basic life skills using hand drums and percussion instruments.

The spotlighted artist in this issue is a drummer from Townsville, North Queensland in Australia, Matt Mallardi. Matt was diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome at the age of 5. He is a drummer and drum teacher, and gigs regularly with his duo Flinders St.

The issue also highlights stories from Flame The Band from upstate New York and singer songwriter and community musician Phill Chalker from Melbourne, Australia.

As of the 8th April 2014, our website has 92 musos featured from Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela.

That number continues to grow daily.



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



Eddie Tuduri is the founder and CEO of The Rhythmic Arts Project (TRAP) which has been a success in various parts of the United States, South America, Canada and Australia.

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## Can-Do News



A big congratulations to Can-Do Musos member, drummer [Carlos Guevara](#) for an outstanding effort at the Costa Rica Drum Fest 2014



Congratulations to Can-Do Musos board member [Andrew Hewitt](#) for becoming an official Australian Pearl drums endorsed artist. Andrew christened his new Pearl Reference series kit with a gig at Blayney in Central West NSW with a 4 hour covers gig with a band Got It Covered on March 1



Amazing videos are floating around youtube of [Jason Barnes](#) and his amazing robotic drumstick arm. Jason recently did his first performance with it at Atlanta Science Festival at the Kennesaw State University.



From Brisbane Australia, [Hollow Tree](#) had their CD Launch for their debut EP, Music For Your Soul on March 27, 2014 at Mick O'Malley's Irish Pub in Queen Street Mall, Brisbane. The CD can be heard and purchased here <http://hollowtree1.bandcamp.com/>



New York's [Nenad Bach](#)'s movie Everything is Forever is being premiered at WorldFest-Houston 2014. It is being screened Friday April 11 at 9pm. Everything is Forever follows Nenad on a fifteen year long journey through war and peace and rock & roll. The result is a searching and intimate exploration of the universal creative process. [Click Here](#) to view a trailer of Everything is Forever.

## Cover Note: [Eddie Tuduri](#)—a man on a mission

No one knows the healing power of rhythm better than Eddie Tuduri, who during his 50-year rock 'n' roll career worked as a drummer for artists such as The Beach Boys to Kenny Loggins and 500 recordings and tours in between...

Eddie says "On September 6th 1997, I was catching the last wave at the beach here in Carpinteria before getting ready for my gig that night in a pizza joint on the Mesa in Santa Barbara.

*As I swam into the crest of the wave it grabbed and slammed me into the ocean bottom.*

*No hesitation, no continuity, just wham, bam, crack! Now, three feet under water, my body floating into what seemed a time without end.*



*As many times as I've tried to articulate it, words always seem to pale the experience. I felt myself drifting towards an indescribable calm.*

*If you've ever had a beloved pet or have one now, then you know what its like to experience the love in their eyes as they look into yours. I had a dog for many years, his name was Bach and we were as close as two living, breathing entities could possibly be.*

*When Bach looked at me I could feel the unconditional love, trust, and acceptance he felt for me, there was nothing like it. If I could describe this place I was drifting towards, I guess I could say; it was like falling into Bach's eyes. And then, at the risk of sounding as if I'd completely taken leave of my senses, in this spiritual abyss through a wave of infinite space, I could see someone who was apparently holding on to what looked like a tornado, really, I know it's the epitome of out but.... though spinning fiercely, he seemed to be hanging on effortlessly with one hand and beckoning me with the other.*

*Lets go, follow me, its time to go. Some years ago, a dear friend of mine*

*passed away and though I couldn't be sure, it felt like this very same friend, this amazing energy was there to guide me on this enticing path towards a kinder, infinite world.*

*As I moved willingly in this way spiritually, I could see my body floating in the opposite direction. Yet not completely detached, I knew I would have to drown to let go completely. There was no doubt I wanted to continue on this journey and so I opened my mouth to let the water in. I knew that this act of drowning would liberate my spirit from body. When I opened my mouth to let this happen, I felt a strong hand placed firmly on my back as I was lifted up and out of the water. Instead of the water rushing in, I took a deep breath of air. I saw the beautiful Carpinteria sky and in the blink of an eye, I was back. I was clearly disappointed, the first words I uttered were, "Oh Shit". I was placed gently on the shore, but I was totally paralyzed.*

*For lack of any other descriptive adjective, a flock of angels disguised as lifeguards, and paramedics gathered me up, body, mind, and spirit, including my splintered neck, and rushed me off to the hospital.*

*Though divine hands clearly played a significant roll in this rescue, these precious souls served as incomparable partners.*



## Can-Do Musical Notes

After a 6 hour spinal operation and a week in ICU, Eddie was moved to The Rehabilitation Institute in Santa Barbara where both physical and spiritual healing occurred.

Sensation gradually returned to his body during his stay at The Rehabilitation Institute, that was when Eddie asked a friend to bring him some drumsticks and he began tapping a simple rhythm on the side of the bed. Two other patients and a hospital aide joined in.

He laughs *"I thought we were gonna get in trouble!"*



When he struck up a beat in his occupational rehabilitation class, therapists noticed that patients showed improvement in memory, coordination and other skills. During one session, an 8-year-old boy, paralyzed on one side by an aneurysm, walked on his own for the first time. Eddie adds *"That's when we knew we had something."*

Eddie says *"The rehab was indeed a safe haven, a place to heal and re-think my life. The first little while I was simply observing this new world I found myself in".* After his rehabilitation, Eddie founded The Rhythmic Arts Project which educates individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Differences by embracing a curriculum that encompasses rhythm as a modality to address basic life and learning skills as well as reading, writing and arithmetic. TRAP's ongoing efforts provide its students with the tools and confidence needed to succeed in the world, while teaching the world understanding and compassion. Group teaching occurs in an environment that is supportive



and fun. Members naturally develop confidence and a positive self-image.

Eddie adds *"We are a non profit corporation based in Santa Barbara, California, a 501 (c) 3 which means that we can raise money by writing grants, doing benefit concerts, conducting live, silent and internet auctions and by finding individuals who might want to help us financially. Any and all donations in most*

*cases are 100% tax deductible. Why then is it so hard to fund? A good friend who has been in this business forever puts it as a matter of fact, "we just ain't that "sexy". Sad but true, our friends with Intellectual and Developmental Differences are not a popular target for the usual funding sources. Most people we work with are passed by in public, ignored and often misunderstood. The truth is, when that cute child with Down Syndrome or Cerebral Palsy grows up, he or she is largely ignored in our society. "*

In a big way, TRAP are doing everything they possibly can to recognize, celebrate, and include their friends at every age in all aspects of everyday life.

People with Down Syndrome, Autism and various other Intellectual and developmental differences want the same things in life as we do, to be appreciated for their accomplishments, to contribute to society, to work in the real world, to love and to be loved and most importantly, to belong.

Eddie adds *"On a personal note, as the founder of this program, this work has become a way of life for me, a richer and more rewarding life in every way. The next time you see a person with a developmental disability, stop and say hello! You might be pleasantly surprised and you might very well make a new friend, a good one."*



TRAP place a lot of emphasis on new organizations, facilities and schools. Nearly every month Eddie is on the road teaching. Eddie says *"The time varies depending on my responsibilities in any given place. (Here is when I get to hang out and really enjoy my students.)"*

Travel arrangements are tedious at best as is the physical demands I put on myself to accomplish the mere "getting there". Flights range in time from a few hours to days in transit.

Eddie says he is constantly improving the curriculum, gathering and compiling new ideas from teachers and various instructors including a few of his own. The basic methodology of the TRAP program is constant but the facilitation is ever evolving. *"The curriculum is comprehensive offering a wide range of subjects addressing various ability levels. The methodology is based in perceptual motor match, visual, tactile, and auditory combined with speech. We can*

*see, feel and hear the lessons and simultaneously speak the answers. "* Currently, the TRAP Book has 112 pages of exercises addressing scholastics as well as life skills. There is also a hardware package including the color swatches, TRAP playing cards and dice.

Eddie says *"In our train the trainer program, it is essential that the students that we work with are able to grasp the concept of the program by demonstrating the expected response as delivered by the trainer. The criteria for students rely on the ability to follow simple instructions, while maintaining a reasonable behavior. The significance of facilitating students, who have a basic concept of the training, is the mutually beneficial training experience. As the new TRAP teachers progress, they will naturally make the necessary accommodations and modifications as appropriate, to meet the needs of the student's with less ability. It is the philosophy of TRAP to embrace individuals with all levels of functioning so they may meet their own personal goals."*

TRAP has been a huge success within disability organisations in the United States, Canada, South America and more recently Australia.



*"Music moves us in a positive direction—physically, spiritually, mentally,"* he says. *"It addresses the will to live. It saved my life."*

More information on The Rhythmic Arts Project can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/TheRhythmicArtsProject> and their own website <http://www.traponline.com>

# Can-Do Musical Notes

## The Flame a band who really fires on all cylinders

Flame, a group of talented musicians from upstate New York who happen to have disabilities, started performing as a group in 2003. The band, from Lexington – Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc. started performing in Fulton County, NY as a recreation program. In 2004 Flame performed for a NYSARC (NYSARC is America's largest non-profit organization supporting people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities and their families since 1949) state conference since then, requests to hire Flame have poured in from all over the world. Flame averages 70 paid performances per year, including concerts in 16 different states, and in Europe. The band performs for national and statewide conventions, corporate conferences, civic events, schools, dances and private parties. Flame's song list contains over 100 classic hits – rock, country, and blues – from the past five decades.

Each member of Flame has their own fire that burns inside them that gives them the strength to overcome any challenge life throws at them. Each member is very unique and brings a different talent to the stage and together they are a phenomenon that has been sweeping people across the nation for 10 years.



Their life wasn't always on such an amazing journey. Michelle King states, "When I was going to school I wanted to sing and play guitar. My school years were very difficult. Kids made fun of me because I was different. They didn't see my true talents as a musician. They didn't get to know the real me." David LaGrange tells us, "When I went to the school for the blind they said my dreams were too big and I need to come back to reality. I was never going to be in a band and I would never release a CD. Guess what I proved them wrong!" Adrienne Phillips had nowhere to go after school and her mother's worst fear become a reality. Adrienne said, "I was scared during my audition but when I was chosen to be part of the band it felt like I won the American Idol." Paul D Zuckerwar states, "Flame has given me a purpose and self-worth."

Many people don't realize that airplane's do not accommodate the need for someone that uses a wheelchair to use the restroom while in the air. Could you imagine sitting on a flight for over 4 hours and not being able to use the facilities or to even get up and stretch around?

Flame has released five CDs; the newest release, "Still Burning", celebrates Flame's 10th Anniversary. The band travels on a custom tour bus in the greater Northeast area and uses commercial airlines to fly all over the world, helping them inspire and give hope to others.

Recent events have catapulted Flame into the national spotlight – performances at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the House of Blues, both in Cleveland, Ohio; a feature story in "People" magazine; and a segment on ABC TV's "Good Morning America."

Our mission is to bring Flame's music and message to the rest of the world to help change how the public perceives people with disabilities and increase the awareness and acceptance of all people.

When we are on stage we are able to focus on our abilities and our disabilities disappear!

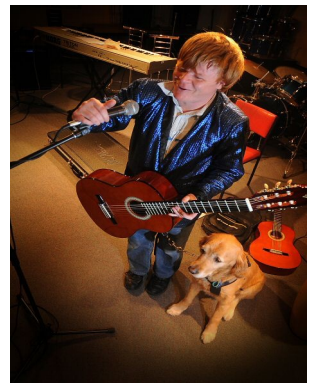
[www.flametheband.com](http://www.flametheband.com)

## Phil Chalker—a muso with a vision

Can do Musos Member Phil Chalker comes from Taralgon, just outside Melbourne, Australia. He suffers from an Eye condition called Retinitis pigmentosa, otherwise known as RP. Phil says *"I have been a local busker in the streets of Melbourne and other surrounding areas since the age of 18 years old. My music career started after doing work Experience in a Guitar store in a small town in Melton after picking up a 12 string guitar for the first time- just strumming it not knowing that my voice sound good to my own ears this is when I begin to take up the guitar as a Musical instrument."*

As a blind Musician Phil had to Research different ways to learn guitar because he was unable to just go into a music store and buy a music book and start learning. He says *"When living by myself I found a person who could play guitar that I could learn from by them explaining the finger positions of each chord to me, which made it easier to understand."* Then he wanted to start taking singing lessons. He attended different singing schools over the years such as: White diamond ,School of Modern Singing at Sunshine, Jamie Redfern Talent School, and Vox Singing School in the outer Melbourne suburb of Hoppers Crossing.

Phil says *"The reason why I attended so many schools I had in my mind am I good at singing or is the Teachers just saying i'm good to feel sorry for me because I have a disability."*



He adds *"As a busker who is blind, when you are approached by the local council or police and told to move on, sometimes I didn't because how did I really know that they were legit. It could have been one of the general public playing games with me by telling me to move on."* People can be cruel to buskers, especially those with a disability. Phil says *"People from the general public make funny comments such as my 4 year old son can do better than you. I just tell them... bring him down and we will have a duo together. One person went past and said here is \$2 get some Singing Lessons these are the things that made me feel that are people telling me the truth about my singing".* Eventually, Phil learnt comments are comments and he played and sang music because he loved it. If they want to throw money they can if they don't that's still ok.

While Phil was attending singing schools, he was using backing tracks to learn how songs went. He adds *"I had to download lyrics on to the computer and have my screen reader read them to me... after learning the lyrics I then listen to the songs that I wanted to sing to find out the structure and how it goes."* Then he had his singing teacher teach the songs He says *"By this time wasn't at a good enough standard to perform on stage with my guitar, so I performed with professional backing tracks instead".* His singing career started to kick off properly around the year 2000 when he was asked to perform at a disability dance party in Geelong called Club Wild. He says *"at this time I was nervous because I was moving from the outdoor life of a busker to an on stage performer"*.

After going to this event and performing really built Phil's confidence up into having his own bio written, and started to promote himself around the traps. Later along came my website [www.chalkersperformances.com](http://www.chalkersperformances.com). After a lot of self promotion, he began booking gigs all over Victoria, even as far as Horsham. After playing Guitar for so long and singing along with backing tracks, he decided to move into Karaoke. He bought himself some equipment and

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## Phil Chalker (cont)

gradually over time was getting bookings to to run Karaoke at different venues for different organisations and primary schools and more.

At the end of 2012, he began to play the ukulele which he says *"i began to love because its small and portable, easy to carry around"*. He adds *"When you have a Seeing Eye Dog, i can just fling it over my shoulder and off i go, that way i always have a hand free to give my seeing eye dog a command"*.

[www.chalkersperformances.com](http://www.chalkersperformances.com)

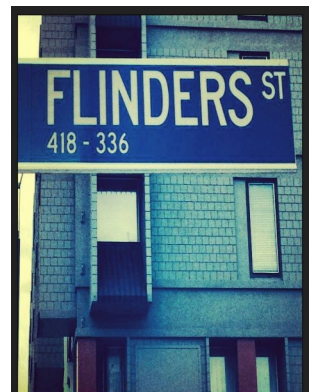
## Can-Do Featured Muso - Matt Mallardi

Matthew Mallardi was born in the city of Townsville, a large coastal community in Queensland, Australia. At the age of 5, Matthew was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome.

Matt credits his love of music from his parents. From a young age he was exposed to INXS, ACDC, The Angels and Sherbert. Matt's fondest memory was of the family road trips where signing along the Australian rock classics was mandatory. His music taste expanded when he

was passed down the family cassette collection at age ten. At aged 15, Matt was enrolled at Heatley Secondary College. It was here that Matthew met his first music teacher, Bjarne Ohlin. The former guitarist of Australian rock band The Divinyls, Ohlin played an important role in the development of Matthew's passion for drums.

Currently he teaches his own drum students in Townsville, and plays for a duo called Flinders St, named after a street in Townsville, which they started as a busking act.



Check out Matt Mallardi's band FLINDERS ST on facebook. For videos of Matt in action, check out MATTEO MALLARDI on Facebook

## Matt's Fast Five

### 1. What started you playing music?

I started playing music and drums when I was 15 after I saw a kid from my secondary school playing. It was pretty clear that from then on I was hooked. My mum and dad used to play a lot of music around the house when as I was growing up and I always enjoyed rocking out and listening to it. I especially loved the drum beats.

### 2. What are you working on at the moment?

Well for me I like to practice a lot during the week working on my weaknesses and turning them into my strengths. I focus on a lot of linear patterns and beats and I like voicing them around the drum set and seeing how they sound on different drums. It's exciting how many sounds and combinations you can pull from a drum set. I am also working with a singer / guitarist who is originally from Adelaide. We are currently playing in my home town of Townsville and we travel on weekends to different places around North Queensland. When I don't have any shows booked I go busking with a small drum set up and i play along to my own dance music that I have put together from samples using Logic Pro through a small speaker. I enjoy having people walk past and enjoy what I'm creating. It's even better when they have a dance. I love doing stick tricks when I am out busking for a little more entertainment.

I am also working on some new drum remixes for Youtube and I also teach drums during the week.

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

#### BAD

Last year I entered a NQ drum solo comp and I practiced a lot for it. I started the solo out on two hi hats and as I went to do a drum roll around the kit I hit floor tom and the legs came loose and it fell over.

#### FUNNY

One night we were playing in a mining town called Charters Towers and my singer Nick hit his guitar pedal to make it louder but when he did, it was so loud he could not hear the difference. We played the whole song but it was so loud and I tried to get his attention but he did not see me, so the for rest of the song I just played with a huge smile on my face.

# Can-Do Musical Notes

## Matt's Fast Five (continued)

### 4. Who inspires you? Who are your heroes?

Wow the list would go on and on but here are a few names of people that keep me inspired everyday to keep on my drumming journey Tony Royster, Jr, Lucius Borich, Ben Ellingworth, Matt Halpern, Mike Johnston, Andrew Hewitt, Luke Williams, Jay Postones, Steve Judd, Matt Garstka, Mark Tyson, Shane Evans and Shane Russell.

I practice in Townsville in my storage shed my mate Alex Leotta practices there as well and when I watch him play I feel inspired. He always inspires me to just keep practising and growing at my craft and getting better and better.

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

Being born with Aspergers Syndrome I never really had good socialising skills. I could never talk to people I was always shy or I never knew what to say to them and I had really bad anxiety. so when i started to learn drums i really fell in love with it . When I turned 20 I started busking on the night club strip with my mate Constantine Hagiaglou and that changed my life so much. I went from not talking to anyone except my family to talking to hundreds of random people a night and playing in front of them. It was crazy! Now I feel so confident in myself now. I can go and play drums anywhere and not have any anxiety. When meeting new people, especially for band auditions, I am a lot more easier to talk to.

Busking really has helped me and I think being born with something like this has been great for me. There are no negatives to what I have anymore; it's all positives which i love. Most of all I get to do something I love so much and spend so much time doing it, I am truly grateful for what I have been born with.

The roads that I have gone down in my life and the choices I continue to make in my life have me feeling that I am on the right path and I am just going to keep following it.

## What's cool on Can-Do Youtube



Sweden's Eddie Wheeler @ Minneskonsert för Pelle Nordkvist



From Germany, The Mix - "Wo geht die Reise hin"



The Scott Davidson Trio from Delaware performing Nomad

## The Final Note

"When you read these stories each one is an inspirational boost! Every word you read has and is a struggle in their lives...but...they all have the Can Do attitude that drives them! Where does it come from? It must be a higher spirit that uses them as a messenger. All we do is showcase each member to make their voice heard!

We ask you all the spread the word on our face book page [www.facebook.com/pages/Can-Do-Musos](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Can-Do-Musos), to your friends. Let the world hear all the stories and share in the global feeling of our love for music!"

Till 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](mailto:candomusos@gmail.com)

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