

# Andrew Hewitt

## “Australia’s Most Inspirational Drummer”

<http://www.drummerstix.com.au>

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

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*“#1 most inspirational and remarkable musician in the world” Raw Ramp UK – August 2015*

Australian drummer, Andrew Hewitt was born with Cerebral Palsy, which forces him to use a wheelchair. This has made drumming a very serious challenge. Over time, Andrew has become a world renown drummer, and has earned the title “Australia’s Most Inspirational Drummer” from drumming peers from all over the world.

Andrew got his first drum kit at age 10, and since the late 80s, Andrew has worked successfully as a Performing Artist, Drum Teacher, Motivational Speaker, Workshop Facilitator, and Disability Advocate.

Andrew was thrown into the international spotlight in *Modern Drummer* magazine in April 2004, and has since appeared in drumming magazines globally including Australian Drumscape.

***“Andrew Hewitt is without a doubt one of the hardest working musicians you will find. Andrew is a drummer who has cerebral palsy and holds drum therapy workshop programs with a focus on motivation and physical therapy from playing drums. he has helped so many players with varying disabilities, to get back on the kit. Andrew regularly travels bringing up lifting grooves to people Australia wide.” - Drumscape March 2007***

A short DVD was released in late 2007 by US film maker Anthony Allen. This was a short 15 minute story, capturing Andrew’s journey as a drummer with Cerebral Palsy. The DVD received rave reviews worldwide, including *3 stars out of 5* – Rhythm UK.

As a performing artist, apart from playing in bands around the pubs and club circuits, Andrew has also performed events such as Club Wild in 2004 and 2005 (Sydney Opera House), Adelaide Fringe Festival 2008 (Fowler’s Live, Adelaide), Awakenings Festival 2008 (Horsham), Australia’s Ultimate Drummers’ Weekend 2009 (Darebin Arts Centre, Melbourne), Re-writing the Score 2011 (Orange

Regional Conservatorium) as well as presenting and performing at various disability conferences and expos all over Australia.

In March 2013, Andrew went to the USA for the first time. This was to attend a training seminar for the TRAP (The Rhythmic Arts Project) an educational program using hand drums which came from a training seminar in Santa Barbara, CA. While there, Andrew hosted his first ever drum clinic in Santa Barbara. While in the USA, Andrew also went across to New York, to have lessons with drumming guru, Dom Famularo. While at Dom's studio, Andrew met with 3 other disabled drummers for a round table discussion of sorts, discussing the frustrations of being a musician with a disability. We formed Can-Do Musos to be a new global voice for musicians living with a disability from all across the globe. Currently, our website <http://www.candomusos.com> supports 282 musicians from 30 countries.

As well as being a Can-Do Musos founding board member, the web administrator, Andrew also hosts a weekly online radio show, and monthly online TV show supporting musicians featured on the website.

As an organisation, Can-Do Musos was instrumentally responsible for 10 musicians involved in the 2016 "Yes I Can" campaign for the British Paralympics Team.

Andrew has since been back to the USA on 3 other occasions, to present discussion forums and perform at the world's largest music expo The NAMM Show in Anaheim, California. The biggest highlight was on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017, where he opened the show on Centre Stage with 8 other musicians from 4 countries representing the Can-Do Musos project.

Andrew has had minor appearances on TV including Channel 10 News, Sunrise, Drum Talk TV USA (online), and in December 2016, Andrew was the subject of a nationwide news story for International Day which aired on ABC News 24 TV and heard ABC Radio. The story was about Andrew living with Cerebral Palsy and... playing and teaching drums.

Along with being a performing artist, Andrew has also had success as a drum teacher and educator. The majority of Andrew's drum students have a disability. *The idea isn't to find the next rock star, but to boost the student's confidence and give them a bit of hope and guidance.* There is only one rule; the word CAN'T stays outside the front door.

In May 2017, Andrew presented via Skype to a disability arts forum in St Petersburg Russia. This forum was inspired by the recent banning of a Russian entrant in Eurovision because she was a wheelchair user.

Over the years, Andrew has gained international endorsement deals major companies such as Pearl drums, Zildjian cymbals, Vic Firth drumsticks and Remo drumheads and percussion. Andrew has had a lot of support through these companies, and has artist pages on the following websites:

<https://zildjian.com/artists/andrew-hewitt> - Zildjian Cymbals

[http://vicfirth.com/artist/Andrew\\_Hewitt/](http://vicfirth.com/artist/Andrew_Hewitt/) - Vic Firth Drumsticks

<http://remo.com/team/member/andrew-hewitt> - Remo USA

As a musician, Andrew Hewitt has never let his disability stand in his way, and is living proof that dreams are possible.