




THE *Sound*
OF INDEPENDENCE

A COLLECTION OF
SONGS
—*created by*—
NEW YORKERS
with disabilities

Compiled by
CONCEPTS
OF INDEPENDENCE

October 2017



THE SOUND OF INDEPENDENCE

Mix Tape

1. All for a Reason
Flame
2. In My Shoes
4 Wheel City
3. Keep Rolling On
Tabi Haly
4. Yardbird Suite
Sam Baum
5. The Hard Way
Tom Ryan
6. This is Me
Flame
7. Take the A Train
Sam Baum
8. The Movement
4 Wheel City
9. New Day
Tabi Haly
10. Hurricane Sandy
Tom Ryan
11. Vukovar
Nenad Bach



FLAME

Flame is a group of musicians with powerful vocals, smooth harmonies and a rich array of instruments. The 10-person cover band from Gloversville, NY happens to have disabilities. Flame's mission is to change the world through music. Their performances help change how the public perceives people with disabilities and increases awareness and acceptance of all people, regardless of their differences. The musicians of Flame have disabilities including autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, blindness and paralysis. They do what they love and change the world along the way. Find out more at www.flametheband.com/



TOM RYAN

Tom Ryan has been active on the Long Island music scene for over 25 years. He is a singer-songwriter and plays guitar (both rock and classical), keyboards and bass. Tom has an auditory processing disorder which is on

the autism spectrum. Although expressing things in every day life can be challenging, Tom finds deep expression through writing and performing music. He started out performing in rock bands in high school, and currently does solo acoustic gigs at local coffeehouses and restaurants as well as private parties, benefits and organizations for people with disabilities. Learn and hear more at <http://www.tomryanmusic.com/>



4 WHEEL CITY

Namel “Tapwaterz” Norris and Ricardo “Rickfire” Velasquez, the masterminds of 4 Wheel City, are two hip hop artists from the Bronx who rap about their lives with disabilities. They convey unapologetically that people with disabilities are people first and foremost, who have the same talents and dreams as any other human being. This message is amplified with the artists’ dual role as motivational speakers. They perform their “rap therapy” at hospitals, schools, rehabilitation centers, fundraisers, and events all over the world, spreading hope and helping to create more opportunities for people with disabilities. Discover lots more about 4 Wheel City at 4wheelcity.com.



TABI HALY

Tabi is a prolific singer and songwriter who performs frequently throughout New York City with her bandmates Fabian Caballero and Michael Bunin. She writes music inspired by her own life and experiences. Her songs speak of love, life, and feeling different. Tabi calls some her songs “advocacy songs” because they focus on her life with a disability, and are meant as a positive message for other people with disabilities. They allude to a struggle, but with an affirmative and optimistic purpose. Find out about her upcoming gigs, listen to recordings and check out her current project to fund a recorded album at www.tabinyc.com.



NENAD BACH

Nenad Bach is a lifelong musician, recording artist, composer, and performer with a wide range of amazing projects and albums. He happens to have Parkinsons, but his music

encompasses so much more of his life and experience. His latest album *Everything is Forever* is created from a “dream nurtured through wartime and expatriation, a dream informed by his quest for universal justice and deep longing for world peace...It’s a potent shot of rock infused with heart and soul, packed with provocative lyrics calling back the ethos of the sixties, unafraid to question, determined to seek answers, in a rousing call to action.” Learn more about this remarkable musician at www.nenadbachband.com.



SAM BAUM

Sam began to play jazz piano in 2005 when he was 13, and immediately it was clear that jazz was Sam’s language. Like many people on the autistic spectrum, Sam had never found the standard give and take of conversation easy or natural. Jazz improvisation, on the other hand, is where Sam is most clever, expressive, and naturally at home. Under the expert and caring guidance of his teachers, Sam has blossomed as a musician, becoming more and more skilled in the complex language of jazz improvisation and creating his own very expressive and personal style. In addition to jazz, Sam has explored klezmer and other areas of popular music. Find out more about Sam, his teachers and his music at www.sambaum.net