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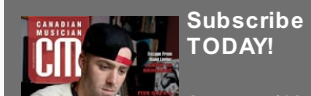
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## NOISE ORGANIZER

*Jeff Salem*

« ["GROOVE-A-DIDDLES"](#) with Jeff Salem

### Drummer Kurt Dahl "ONE BAD SON"



It's 2am, I just finished loading my gear and I am making my way home from a gig.

It was a great night, good audience and fun tunes to play.

I have about an hour's drive and I usually accompany my ride listening to the radio.

Many of my students say "Radio! not your iPod or CD's?"

I tell them, radio gives me the opportunity to hear what is getting air played these days. I try to have an open mind and give everything a listen to at least once and if I don't dig it, I change the station.

About 30 minutes into my peaceful drive my dial was set to 94.9 "The Rock FM", a station out of Oshawa ON.

A tune came on that started with some nice guitar strumming then the drums entered with a nice steady cross stick groove. I was enjoying this, something fresh I haven't heard in a while. Then the vocals started and I was like "Yeah" this is happening. I cranked it up.

As soon as the chorus kicked in I was so hooked. It was great to hear a tune with strong vocals, cool guitar riffs and the steady back beat of the drums shaking my van. I had no idea who this band was, but loved it.

I knew it was something current. I was crossing my fingers that at the end of the tune the DJ would come on to announce the song and band.

I was lucky, he did. The song was "Scarecrows" from the band

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“One Bad Son”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8s2wqH4Y6c> (Scarecrows video)

I immediately wrote it down and Googled them when I got home. I loved this track and had to pick up their CD.

About a week later I went to visit Larry Davidson from D’Addario Canada to pick up some Evans drumheads. I was sitting in his office and I notice a “One Bad Son” CD on his desk. I screamed out “Hey these guys rock” “Do you know them” I asked.

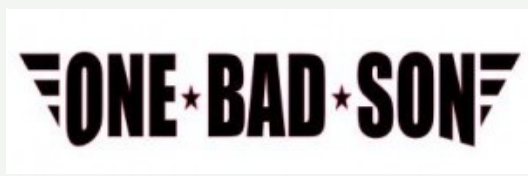


Larry mentioned that the drummer Kurt Dahl is an Evans artist. Larry connected us both and Kurt invited me to see the band perform. ( Thanks Larry )

The gig was at a small venue in Toronto, mostly industry people attended. It was a Wednesday night with an audience of about 40 people. I must say what a kick ass show these guys put on. They gave it all, it was a performance, not just 4 guys playing their instruments. The stage they were on was tiny but they used it like it was a stadium.

I had a chance to meet the guys briefly. Kurt and the band members were super nice, very cool, humble and talented.

Let’s get to know Kurt and his band member’s history:



Singer Shane Volk, drummer Kurt Dahl and guitarist Adam Hicks first joined forces in Saskatoon, SK, in 2004. The three friends moved into a house together, forming a tight-knit brotherhood and spending every free moment jamming and building up a catalog of songs. They independently released the albums This Aggression Will Not Stand in 2006 and Orange City in 2007. But it wasn’t until Adam Grant joined on bass in 2007 that OBS was truly complete.

One Bad Son’s reputation for tight musicianship and explosive, unscripted live shows spread through word of mouth, and before long, the group was playing too sold out venues in its hometown and embarking on a string of well-received national tours. This propelled the outfit to high-profile opening slots for Godsmack, Buckcherry and Default, and the singles “Rustbucket” and “Retribution Blues” received Canada-wide radio play. “We’re outsiders and we always operate in our own bubble,” says Dahl of the band’s grassroots origins. “We don’t get things handed to us...we have to work to get them.”

The four friends relocated to Vancouver in 2011 — a bold move, considering their loyal following in Saskatoon. After a few months of steady gigging, the band had won over a new legion of fans and inked a record deal with the local 604 Records, which will release the band’s newly-completed third album.

This eponymous collection, produced by Default drummer Danny Craig, is a culmination of everything the band has achieved in the past eight years. “There’s a reason why it’s self-titled,” explains Volk. “We really feel like this is the new starting point. There was everything that happened before the release of this record and

everything that's going to happen after this. This is a true One Bad Son record."

The album channels the electrified energy of the band's thunderous concerts and also adds a new dimension to its diverse sonic pallet. Upbeat scorchers like "Rustbucket" and "She's on Fire" are packed with '70s-inspired hard rock riffs and fretboard fireworks, while the menacing sing-along "London Kills" taps into something darker and more groove-based. Elsewhere, the band shows its stylistic breadth with the deeper, more emotional songs "Scarecrows" and "El Camino".

While touring cross-Canada with Buckcherry in early 2013, "Scarecrows" become the band's first top 5 hit, staying in the top 10 across Canada for 10 weeks in a row. Based on early reaction to the band's newest single "It Ain't Right", they may be on their way to outdoing themselves soon.

These passionate and uncompromising tracks are the product of years of devotion to the life of rock 'n' roll. Of course, the guys are no strangers to hard work. "Lyrically, it's a very blue collar record," Volk observes. "I'm a farm kid. Kurt's dad is an auto body man. Adam's dad is a painter. That's what we grew up with. It's a really good reflection of where the band has been the last few years — just working, working, working."

Now that the band is finally seeing its labor pay off in the form of a record deal and a quickly expanding fan base, don't expect One Bad Son to compromise its independent spirit and timeless approach to rock music any time soon. "We're four guys who write all the songs together," Dahl asserts. "We play our own instruments. We don't play to a backing track. We've lived together as a band. We dress ourselves. If that's old fashioned, that explains what's wrong with rock 'n' roll today."

He continues, "We do it ourselves. There's no one else pulling the strings behind the scenes. We live and breathe this band and these songs. That's what real rock 'n' roll is all about."



Before I left the gig that night, I bought their CD and my wife and I enjoyed it on the ride home. Great tunes, production and performance. Wow...it was nice to hear a good rock singer use his pipes.

I haven't heard anything current in a long time that has the ingredients these guys offer.

The entire disc is killer, support the band and buy their music, don't steal and download things for free.

In my next blog we are going to take a look at Kurt's other passion and professional career. LAW! Yes folks that is

correct.

Kurt is an entertainment lawyer. How hand and hand these two careers work well together. Being a musician and have your business chops together. What a perfect mix.

Kurt will share some advice and music tips from an article he wrote titled "How Your Music Makes Money" in my next Blog.

Check out the band's website and other links below.

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

[www.facebook.com/onebadson](http://www.facebook.com/onebadson)

[www.twitter.com/onebadson](http://www.twitter.com/onebadson)

Catch you next time.

Jeff Salem A.K.A (Noise Organizer)

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**Tags:** Canadian Musician magazine, Drum Tips, Jeff Salem, Kurt Dahl, One Bad Son, scarecrows

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