

Eros Bresolin

BEAT GENERATION?

We all know that Parkinsons is a mixed bag. It manifests itself in a different form within each person it afflicts. It is like a lucky dip. Unfortunately, we are the dip and Parkinsons is the lucky, overbearing and cumbersome arm accompanied by an unwelcome probing hand. It feels around inside you looking for something that we are more than happy using although we may never have actually appreciated it, not having paid it any extra attention, until it has gone.

As Parkinsons was taking my ability to walk, my natural response was "to run away". Is it at all possible that in running away, I somehow managed to escape with my running ability intact?

On a similar level, my ability to talk was being systematically stripped away one word at a time. My only defence was to scream, shout, to sing out loud. Was this vocal outburst the very thing that preserved my ability to sing by scaring Parkinsons away while it only had enough time to steal my ability to talk?

No! Of course this is not true, but isn't it odd that I can run but not walk, how I can sing but not talk? Why is running so many miles apart from walking? Why is singing such a different song from talking?



NOTE: You may have noticed that I spell Parkinsons without the apostrophe. Parkinsons is not a "disease" and many people have now stopped using it in conjunction with the word Parkinsons. To use of the "apostrophe" implies a connection to the dropped word so why use it? It's Parkinsons.



Tom Isaacs once told me that he found it easier to run around Britain's coastline than to walk. At least he would have finished his journey sooner than expected.

Parkinsons has greatly affected my ability to communicate. My stammer continues to get worse while my talking voice grows ever quieter. I stammer when talking to someone, while reading out written text or even when reciting memorised passages. It has inhibited my main form of communication with others and I am fighting the temptation to hide away in a self-imposed cave. I do not wish or desire to become a social recluse so I defiantly push on.

Being a musician myself, I have spent many hours in the studio writing, composing and producing many tracks. It is a huge part of me and of what I am. Despite my inability to talk, the one thing I have noticed is that strangely, I can still sing. The only explanation I have is "the beat". A good beat or bass line is essential when composing tracks in many styles of music, especially the more popular and mainstream styles.

I have found that walking or running in time to music is much easier than without it. The same goes for singing.

I can hear what you are saying or thinking right now. "That may be a great bit of advice to assist me in getting around. People would think it much less strange if I walked around in time to music than if I had to actually use a form of "Rap" to communicate."

Yes, some might see it as slightly odd.

I have met others who find running easier than walking but no-one who has commented that singing is easier than talking, though I must admit I have not looked far. It would be great to find out.

If you would like to hear an example of Eros singing then please follow this link.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBYxjMx85n4>

It is his entry into the World Parkinson Congress video competition in Montreal this October.