



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
UNIVERSITY CITY
Transform the Life of Every Student Every Day!

NewsRelease

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University City Returning Artist Reception This Wednesday, Nov. 13

Chris Watkins, UCHS Class of '88, To Be Honored

University City, MO – The School District of University City in partnership with the University City Municipal Commission on Arts and Letters is pleased to announce a public reception this Wednesday to celebrate musician Chris Watkins, a 1988 University City High School Graduate who, today through Wednesday, is visiting with students around the school district to celebrate music and song. The free reception begins at 7 p.m. in University City High School's Pruitt Library, 7401 Balson Avenue 63130 (Jackson Avenue entrance).

Watkins began playing the church piano and organ at a young age under the mentorship of his mother, noted director and composer Anita Watkins-Stevens. After high school and college at Webster University, he went on to work with internationally renowned gospel artists and groups, including Ricky Dillard, soul singer Ledisi, Bebe Winans, Earl Bynum, the Gospel Music Workshop of America and the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses.

Watkins' compositions "Because of the Blood," "God is Truly Amazing" and the award-winning "No One Like You" are sung in churches across the country.

Watkins attended U. Forest Elementary School, Brittany Woods Middle School and University City High School. During Returning Artist Week 2019, he is looking forward to sharing his enthusiasm for various genres of music as well as sharing with students and staff the impact U. City Schools has had on his life journey.

"It is truly one of the great honors of my life to be even considered to come back and share with students the educational and psychological fulfillment of music in life," Watkins said. He currently serves as minister of music and creative arts for the historic Central Baptist Church of St. Louis.

The Returning Artist Program, coordinated by the Commission, enables accomplished artists who are UCHS graduates to share their talents with students and further encourage them to investigate careers in the arts. Past Returning Artists include visual artists, glassblowers, writers, filmmakers, musicians, actors, singers and dancers. More information about the U. City Returning Artist series is available at www.ucityartsandletters.org.

#Lion Pride

On February 21, 1911, with a City population of only 2,417, The School District of University City was officially established. Classes began in September 1912 with a total school population of 769. Today, you will find outstanding educational programs serving a student population of approximately 2,800 with a preschool, four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. In May 2018, University City High School held its 101st formal Commencement Ceremony.

www.ucityschools.org

