

Heart of a Lion



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NewsRelease

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 6, 2021

Danny DuMaine Named University City's Returning Artists for 2021

The University City Municipal Commission on Arts & Letters names Daniel "Danny" J. DuMaine as the 2021 Returning Artist. DuMaine, who has been performing for 42 years, is an award-winning composer, arranger, performer and educator. While piano and saxophone are his main instruments, he also plays clarinet and flute.

As the Commission's 2021 honoree, DuMaine plans to share his expertise and work with music students in elementary, middle and high school classrooms in a series of sessions and master classes during American Education Week, November 8-12.

DuMaine graduated from University City High School in 1981 after attending University Forrest and McKnight Elementary along with Brittany Woods Middle and Hanley Junior High schools.

"I realized my gift for music when I was in kindergarten," DuMaine said. "My home room teacher played the 'clean-up' song on the piano. I dropped whatever was in my hands and I went to the piano to play what I just heard. That was the first time I discovered I could do that."

Following high school, DuMaine received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music performance from Webster University in 1985. Later, he earned a second bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Missouri - St. Louis in 2001.



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As a professional instructor, DuMaine has been with The School District of City School District since 2018, teaching music to students in kindergarten through fifth grade at Pershing Elementary School. Previously, he taught choir and glee club in the St. Louis Public Schools for 18 years and was choir director for St. Alphonsus Rock Church beginning in 1988. For three years prior, he taught music concurrently at Washington University in St. Louis and DuBourg High School - two of which he also taught at St. Louis Community College. He also served as music director for the St. Louis Rams and the McDonald's Gospel Fest Concerts at the Fox Theater in St. Louis.

"I take pride in being ready for the call, whether it may be Gospel, Classical, Jazz, Spirituals, R&B or Pop," DuMaine added. "I consider myself very blessed and fortunate to have had so many wonderful musical experiences. I am looking forward to many more adventures including my CD of original music, which will be released later this year!"

This award-winning artist has been recognized and featured at the St. Louis Blues, Cardinals and Rams games along with Fair St. Louis. His compositions have been used for the short film "Little Brother," Ronald McDonald House Charity DVD, "World Youth Day" DVD celebrating Pope John Paul II's visit to St. Louis, "Christmas in St. Louis" and a winning a 106.5 The Arch radio jingle competition and Verizon's "How Sweet the Sound" choir content. He also led the River Front Times' Choir of the Year.

The Commission is currently planning a Nov. 10, 2021 evening reception in honor of DuMaine. The celebration begins at 7 p.m. in the UCHS Pruitt Library, located at 7401 Balson Ave. This event is free and open to the public, with prior registration. Reservations may be made at www.ucityschools.org/ReturningArtist2021.

Since 1994, the Commission's Returning Artist program annually features artistically renowned graduates of University City High School who return to share their fields of work. The goals of the program are to encourage students to investigate careers in the arts and to enrich arts programs in schools. Returning artists have included visual artists, glassblowers, photographers, writers, filmmakers, graphic designers, videographers, animators, instrumental musicians, composers, actors, singers and dancers. Questions about the program may be sent to the Commission, at ucityartsandletters@gmail.com.

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