



 Daniel's Music
Foundation

PRESENTS



THE 6TH ANNUAL
DANNY
AWARDS

TEN
EXTRAORDINARY
ARTISTS.
ONE
GLOBAL STAGE.

LEAD SPONSOR - RENÉ PLESSNER

THE TOWN HALL SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

About The Danny Awards



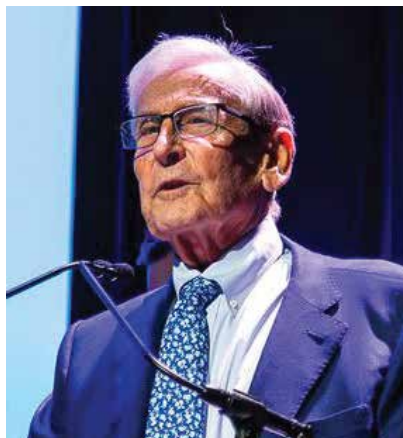
In 2006, Daniel's Music Foundation was founded by the Trush Family to provide free access to music for people with

disabilities. Since inception, we have witnessed firsthand the wonderful talents of countless musicians and have provided them with performance opportunities to share their gifts with others. But we wanted to do more - something that would have an impact beyond the four walls of our music center in NYC.

In 2020, The Danny Awards were born - an annual, global award show that celebrates musicians with disabilities and recognizes their incredible contributions to the world of music. We cannot wait for you to meet this year's Award Winners. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!



Thank you to our Lead Sponsor – René Plessner



The Danny Awards is an event that would not be possible without the love and support of so many. As we celebrate the 6th Annual Danny Awards, we remain eternally grateful to our Lead Sponsor René Plessner for his continuous commitment to musicians with disabilities. His generosity and encouragement are unparalleled and have provided a platform to recognize the exceptional talent that thrives in our community. Thank you!

With Gratitude and Appreciation To:



The Danny Awards judges for your time, talents, and commitment in selecting our Award Winners. Your efforts have helped shape the musicians of the future.

Alex Alexander

Drummer/Percussionist/Producer/Composer

David Boxenbaum

Music and Private Equity Executive/Co-Founder:
Octone Records, Owner: Newport Media
Advisors and NMA Productions

Alyson Cambridge

Singer/Model/Producer/Actor

Nick Cucci

Senior Executive Director: Recording Academy
New York Chapter

George Dennehy

Just Call Me By My Name Label Artist
2020 & 2023 Danny Award Winner

Dina Fanai

Artist/Songwriter/Producer

Richard Gottehrer

Songwriter/Producer/Co-Founder:
The Orchard; Owner: Instant Records

James Ian

Just Call Me By My Name Label Artist
2022 Danny Award Winner

Bob Kinkel

Co-Creator & Producer: Trans-Siberian
Orchestra

Lynn Lendway

Entertainment Executive/President:
24/7 Entertainment NYC

Jamel "Jkeyzz" Richardson

6x GRAMMY Award-winning compos-
er/songwriter/CEO: Chef Boi Media
Entertainment Group LLC

Our Board of Directors, Advisory Council, Management Team and Staff, whose passion and tenacity have allowed us to grow and serve more people. All our donors and supporters who generously allow us to continue to expand and do what we love.

Everyone who submitted a performance video for consideration; thank you for sharing your musical gifts with us. Welcome to The Danny Awards community and please continue to keep music in your life. Everyone here today (both in person and online) for helping to make this meaningful, iconic event possible.

Our Danny Awards Presenting & Contributing Sponsors:

Thank you to all our sponsors for your generosity and commitment to cultivating mutual understanding, appreciation and respect for individuals of all abilities through music. Your impact extends well-beyond the Danny Awards, providing more free music programs to deserving members of our community.



Ponce Bank



Council on
the Arts





Show Lineup

Speak	MAGNETS
Opening Remarks & Special Events and Emcee	Carla Sullivan DMF Director of Strategic Partnerships & Special Events
Distance	BRNDN DYLN
Welcoming Remarks	The Trush Family DMF Co-Founders
The Danny Awards Lead Sponsor	René Plessner
A Better Place	Daniel Trush & Gerry Powers
Searching For The Light	Xander & The Peace Pirates
Bach: Violin Sonata no 2. in A Minor I: Grave	Amy Wang-Hiller
Cat and Mouse	Enhua Yang
Never Have My Soul	8:28 Worship
From The Bedroom To The Bathroom	Joel Chapman
Three Quarters	Barabás Lőrinc
Party in Heaven	Jake n' Sky
Alone	Sarah Hardwig
Closing Remarks	The Trush Family
Seize The Day	The Mendenhall Experiment

Meet the 2025 Danny Awards Winners:



8:28 WORSHIP

8:28 Worship, the mother-daughter duo of Brittany Quiroz (A Hot MS) and Kristen Spath, is on a mission to share the truth of God's everlasting love and faithfulness through music. Quiroz, living with multiple sclerosis, and both sharing numerous chronic conditions, share the belief that God is using their journeys to testify to His truth and favor, trusting that, as Romans 8:28 promises, He is working all things together for His good.



JOEL CHAPMAN

Joel Chapman (he/him) is a New York City-based songwriter, bass-baritone, and conductor. With backgrounds in choral music, accessibility advocacy, musical theater, and comedy, Joel brings fresh spins and improbable ideas to the forefront of his art and leadership. He is co-creator of Gravity, a New(tonian) Musical — a 2025 NAMT Finalist, a 2025 Lucille Lortel Finalist, among other accolades. Joel is also an avid Go player, enjoys cats and dogs equally, and loves public transit. @joelchapmanmusic



BRNDN DYLN

BRNDN DYLN is an indie pop, reggaeton artist and producer whose music blends vulnerability with resilience. Born with a rare disability called Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congenita, he discovered purpose through the piano, ukulele, and singing. He hopes his music becomes an act of resistance and renewal, reshaping how disability is understood.



JAKE N' SKY

Jake' n' Sky are an 18 & 13-year-old brother-sister musical duo with autism. Jake plays 10 instruments and was on the 15th season of America's Got Talent. Sky is an aspiring actress and has had lead roles in various live theatre productions. Together, the Christian contemporary artists recently released their debut album, "Breakthrough." Their mission is to show the world that having autism doesn't mean you aren't capable of great things, but means you are unique and cool!



2025 Danny Awards Winners:

SARAH HARDWIG

Sarah Hardwig is a country singer/songwriter who has performed with such artists as Charles Kelley of Lady A, Lauren Alaina, and has even sung with Steven Tyler. She released her debut single "Who I Am" in 2022 and won the Tennessee Songwriter Week Showcase, and a Danny Award the following year. In 2024, she released her second single "I Know You Won't" and performed at the Grand Old Opry. Sarah recently became TikTok famous with 3.2 million views of her cover of "Alone" by Heart.



MAGNETS

MAGNETS is the music project of Australian artist Siobhan McGinnity. Her work fuses synth-layered pop with classical soundscapes and striking storytelling. Her debut album *Diplacsis* drew international acclaim, with singles featured on ABC TV, highlighted by Rolling Stone Australia and triple j Unearthed. McGinnity is also a passionate advocate for inclusion in the arts. She serves on the board of Arts Access Victoria and on the Accessible Arts Advisory Panel, bringing her lived experience as a disabled artist to help strengthen representation and systemic change.



THE MENDENHALL EXPERIMENT

The Mendenhall Experiment was born from Brandon Mendenhall's aspiration to be in a successful band while working within the limitations of cerebral palsy. Inspired by acts like Korn and Pantera, Brandon taught himself the guitar at the age of 19, rehabilitating his left hand without surgical intervention. The Mendenhall Experiment seeks to touch lives with their music and change global perceptions of people with disabilities. They are currently prepping the release of their third EP, "Chasing Ghosts."





AMY WANG-HILLER

Amy Wang-Hiller is a violinist, educator, and advocate living with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and C1 quadriplegia, known for her advocacy in music and healthcare for complex conditions. She is the founder of Inclusivibe™ Foundation, which aims to bridge equity in healthcare and the arts through storytelling and adaptive music. Wang-Hiller's work focuses on challenging stereotypes, promoting disability visibility, and sharing her personal journey and adaptive techniques for playing the violin.



XANDER & THE PEACE PIRATES

Xander and the Peace Pirates are a Liverpool-born band whose music fuses soul, blues, and classic rock into a sound that feels both timeless and vital. At the heart of the band is Keith Xander, a virtuoso guitarist and vocalist who plays with a prosthetic hook in place of his right hand. Fronted by brothers Keith and Stu Xander, with Mike Gay, Sam Rabbette, and Will Brown, the band delivers a blend of raw passion, world-class musicianship, and unforgettable live energy.



ENHUA YANG

Enhua Yang, an artist of Arts with the Disabled Association Hong Kong and a grantee of the Lee Hysan Foundation Scholarship, is a visually impaired musician who began learning the erhu at the age of 12. Yang has demonstrated extraordinary talent in various public competitions, was awarded the VSA International Young Soloist Award, and has performed at the Kennedy Center. He adheres to the philosophy of 'inheriting and innovating, promoting Chinese music,' dedicating himself to global promotion of Chinese culture while fostering inclusive arts.





About Daniel's Music Foundation

Daniel's Music Foundation (DMF) was founded in 2006 by the Trush Family to provide free access to music for people with disabilities. Our mission is to provide a comfortable, educational, and social environment in which individuals of all abilities can enjoy, learn, and practice the joy of music together.

Today, DMF is continuing to create joy, promote self-expression and build community with free in-person and online music programs nationally. Our methodology — Teaching from the heART™ — enables people with disabilities to make music through movement, storytelling, and the arts, in an environment where each person is valued and encouraged to express themselves authentically. Through



engaging, multi-sensory techniques, we meet our members where they are most comfortable — in person, real-time online, or on-demand.

Since inception, we have offered 16,000+ free, in-person classes at our music center in NYC. Our online program continues to expand serving 55,000+ attendees and is the largest area of opportunity for growth for the Foundation.

We are also helping to build a more equitable future for people with disabilities through high profile events like - The Danny Awards® and Hello Inclusion®, and our non-traditional record label - Just Call Me By My Name®.

As an organization, we are passionately committed to empowerment, changing perception and diminishing isolation for people with disabilities through music. To learn more about Daniel's Music, please visit www.danielismusic.org.



Meet The Trush Family

Since 2006, the Trush Family has dedicated their lives to serving individuals with disabilities by providing free in-person and online music programs through the Foundation. Their skills and experience have allowed them, along with the management team and staff, to create a culture of serving others. Ken has a background in business, finance and operations, Nancy is a former early childhood teacher, and Michael works with children, adolescents and adults as a neuropsychologist. And of course, there is Danny... Daniel's perseverance to reclaim a meaningful life after one of his five brain aneurysms burst at the age of

Music Without Boundaries



Since its launch in 2020, our online program continues to expand with a variety of options where participants can learn and enjoy music together, regardless of where they live.

Drop-In Classes

To provide more options for our community, in July, we launched online Drop-In classes. 30 free classes are now available, live online each week. These 25-minute sessions require no commitment and are offered 5 days a week. Throughout the day, attendees can enjoy a variety of classes, including Expressive Rhythms, Creative Movement and Singing.

Online Events

Hosted in the evening and afternoons, our 1-hour online events are less instructional in nature than our Drop-in and Online Group Classes and focus more on music appreciation and building community. With Open-Mic Nights, themed dance parties and Sing-Alongs, attendees have the option to participate through singing, performing and dancing or they can just relax and enjoy the performances.

Online Group Classes

Online group classes are the most similar to our in-person classes and are offered 35 weeks per year and are typically tied to music theory, or a theme or genre. Here students enjoy an interactive, educational experience that deepens their understanding of different concepts and techniques, while expressing themselves confidently through music.

DMF On-Demand Channel

Our DMF On-Demand Channel houses a growing library of 250+ videos and 550,000+ views. Here members of our community can enjoy music on their own schedule, in the comfort of their own home.

Visit the music programs page on our website at danielsmusic.org to learn more.

12 (an injury which he has never allowed to define him as a person), has helped create the spirit of the Foundation. He is a singer/song-writer and the life force that drives DMF. He also serves as the key ambassador for our mission – and a living example of acceptance, kindness, and joy.



Thinking Differently About Disability



Our commitment to creating a more equitable future for people with disabilities extends beyond our music programs. Leveraging the universal language of music, we have developed a multi-faceted approach that can help shape a mindset of mutual understanding and respect.

Just Call Me By My Name



Our non-traditional record label promotes the positive, uplifting and thought-provoking music of artists with disabilities. Through our corporate partnerships and community relationships, we are opening doors to opportunities for our artists. As an extension of Daniel's Music Foundation, we are breaking down barriers, celebrating artistry, and ensuring every musician is recognized by their name - not their disability.

Speaking & Performance Opportunities

Disability as a topic can be complicated. It is a word with many meanings, interpretations, and perceptions that can often bring with it pre-conceived notions. Through heartfelt storytelling and powerful performances, DMF can impact corporate culture and provide a fresh perspective that makes disability approachable and relatable.



Event Sponsorship

With high profile events like The Danny Awards® and Hello Inclusion®, companies can gain positive exposure and amplify their commitment to inclusion through corporate engagement.

Together we are challenging stereotypes about individuals with disabilities and working to build a more inclusive society for all.

To learn more, contact Carla Sullivan at carla@danielsmusic.org

Mark Your Calendars & Save The Dates!



7th Annual Danny Awards

Sunday, October 18, 2026

DMF 20th Anniversary Annual Spring Benefit

Friday, April 24, 2026

To access live captioning (CART) services for this event on your smartphone,
please scan the QR code below:



Additional accessibility resources are located at the
help desk in the back of the venue.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

If you believe in what we do as an organization and would like to keep our music programs free to the public, we respectfully request that you consider contributing to Daniel's Music Foundation. Donations of all sizes are welcomed, needed, and greatly appreciated.

Your support will help impact the lives of individuals with disabilities and allow us to use music as an instrument to build a more inclusive society. Simply scan the QR code below, text "GIVE" to 1-929-205-7787, or visit the merchandise tables in the lobby.



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