

DAN ^{the} MUSIC MAN

BIOGRAPHY

DAN, THE MUSIC MAN is an original. A songwriter and entertainer whose enthusiastic performances have made him a favourite of family audiences all over his native Canada, the United States and as far away as Seoul, South Korea. Dan the Music Man has released three albums to date. Make a Bridge, his debut album for young audiences, was released to critical acclaim in 1998. Dan's much anticipated second album Safety Neighbourhood was released in the fall of 2000 in partnership with the Kidsure Safety Network. Dan's third collection of wonderful songs have sparked the imaginations of children and their families since 2004.

Born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, Daniel Devion has lived in many of the cities of Canada. Dan pleaded for his first guitar at age 12 and began a life long adventure with music. Dan and his family live in the dynamic, multicultural and cosmopolitan city of Toronto.

As a young man, Dan traveled from coast to coast in Canada, through the United States and the Caribbean perfecting his musicianship and developing a unique ability to entertain.

Recalling his first invitation to perform at a young audience event in the early '90s, "For the first time in over ten years of performing, I was nervous and absolutely terrified! I was asked to write a theme song for a Children's Variety Show in Pickering, Ontario. The song ended up on TV and radio as an advertising jingle. Through an unexpected turn of events, I suddenly found myself the M.C. and first act of the live show! I looked out at this sea of young faces and just began to play. I was overwhelmed by the responsiveness of the children and how eager they were to get involved, truly enjoying the fun of it all."

Dan hasn't been nervous since. A fond connection with this new young audience was born. "From the outset, I tried to create a style of music, a show and an atmosphere in which children, parents, care givers and teachers alike could all truly enjoy themselves, together. No parents reading paperbacks while the kids bounce to syrupy tunes at these shows! It's for the kids and is the most fun when we bring out the kids at heart." says Dan.

Dan has learned the 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration rule of songwriting and creating finished albums. Starting

with Make a Bridge, Dan constructed a studio with a partner, became a recording engineer, producer, multi-instrumentalist, kids choir director and record company president, while maintaining a busy performance schedule. The Safety Neighbourhood project was important to Dan as it is music that encourages children to play it safe. "This album was a labour of love," said Dan, "I love the idea that children can learn things from this record that could actually save their lives. If even one child avoids harm because of something learned from Safety Neighbourhood, I'll consider it a bigger success than all the platinum records in the world stacked together!"

The gap between Safety Neighbourhood and Funday was filled with Dan's new gig as a producer and recording engineer on other artists' albums. Dan has produced and recorded three albums for other artists in this period and is currently working on a fourth.

Dan deeply respects his audience. His message is one of unity, imagination, merriment and the magic of youth. Dan says, "I love to hear that families enjoy this music together. When I see parents laughing, participating and really having fun at the shows with their children, I see them rediscover a little of what their kids feel every day! It's truly a wonderful thing to be a part of!"



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