



Elaine Dame

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PROFILE

Professional Musician with 15 years of experience as a Jazz Vocalist — Clubs, Restaurants, Wine Bars, Corporate Events, Weddings, Private Parties, Fundraisers — and 7 years of experience as a Private Jazz Vocal Instructor. Teach private classes, workshops, and clinics. Help students to increase vocal range and achieve good vocal production: Demonstrate breath control, correct breathing, and proper posture. Instruct students in music theory fundamentals, phrasing and scatting, jazz forms, and jazz styles. Assign and lead listening exercises. Show students how to do the following: choose a song appropriate for their vocal range and style, use jazz lingo, create a lead sheet, organize a gig book, get a gig, lead and communicate with a rhythm section, “sit in” on a gig, and other practical tools. Make classes student-focused and use visualization techniques to help students apply lessons learned.

SKILLS

- Private vocal jazz instructor
- Piano instructor
- Professional jazz singer
- Vocal workshop/clinic instructor
- Professional classical flautist
- Private classical flute instructor
- Professional actor
- Professional voice-over/jingle artist
- Professional musician contractor

EDUCATION

Private Jazz Piano Theory Instruction, Dennis Luxion,* Chicago, IL **2011–2012**
Private Voice Instruction, Doug Susamoto and Fred Farran, Chicago, IL **1993–1994 & 1994–2004**
Private Jazz Flute Instruction, Paul Mertens,** Chicago, IL **1996–1997**
B.A., Theater Arts, California State University, Northridge, CA **1986**
Theater Arts/Music, Full Classical Vocal/Flute Scholarship, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA **1982**
Private Classical Piano, Voice, and Flute Instruction, Stevensville, MI **1970–1980**

**A Jazz Piano Faculty Member at Columbia College, Dennis Luxion toured with Chet Baker in Europe.*

***Poi Dog Pondering’s flautist and saxophonist, Paul Mertens collaborated, composed, and toured with Brian Wilson (The Beach Boys).*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

THE ELAINE DAME STUDIO, Chicago, IL **2008–Present**
Private jazz vocal instructor 2008–Present

- Tailor and individualize lessons to help students, ages 15 to 65, increase their vocal range, endurance, and control; conquer vocal challenges; and get gigs as professional jazz singers
- Teach workshops/clinics to 5–20 students: “The Great American Songbook: Performance and History”; “How to Get the Gig: Consulting for the Would-Be Professional”; “Scatting Workshops: Performance and History”

Private Classical Flute Instructor 1978–1982

THE CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC’S SUMMER JAZZ ACADEMY, Chicago, IL **2013**

- First jazz vocalist hired to teach 5 one-hour-long scatting workshops, as part of a 2-week intensive jazz program, to students (grades 6 through 12) from different socioeconomic backgrounds; demonstrated scatting with a jazz trio
- Taught “Introduction to Scatting History”; emphasized rhythm and improvisation; assisted students in applying ideas and message of scatting when they play their instruments

MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, Minneapolis, MN **1999–2013**

Annual Visiting Volunteer Vocal Workshop Instructor

- Provided vocal workshops to 30 children, pre-kindergarten through grade 2; helped students understand rhythm through clapping exercises, taught them familiar songs, and held Q&A sessions

KATERINA'S JAZZ CLUB, Chicago, IL **2009–2011**
Host, "Musicians' Mixer Mondays"
• Sang first set; opened up session to 5–20 instrumentalists/singers of all ages and skill levels to perform with jazz guitarist Andy Brown

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, Barcelona, Spain **1999, 2000**
Annual Visiting Volunteer Vocal Artist/Instructor
• Provided two day-long vocal workshops to students in grades 1 and 2

PERFORMING EXPERIENCE

THE ELAINE DAME QUARTET, Chicago, IL **1997–Present**
Jazz vocalist, flautist, arranger, and leader

- Have performed American jazz standards at 200+ venues throughout Chicagoland, the Midwest, and the U.S., including The Fairmont Hotel, The Drake Hotel, Andy's Jazz Club, Katerina's, Pops for Champagne, and New York's Metropolitan Room

Concert Performances

- *Something to Life For: The Strayhorn/Ellington Collaboration*
- *Easy to Love: A Cole Porter Valentine*
- *By George! The Life and Work of George Gershwin*
- *GI Jukebox: The Music of WWII*
- *The Rodgers and Hart Songbook*

SWEET ACCORD, Chicago, IL **1995–2003**
Vocal, guitar, flute, and fiddle folk trio
Vocalist, Flautist, Arranger

- Performed arrangements of pop/folk/rock standards in 3-part harmony at small venues and coffeehouses

LAS GUITARRAS DE ESPAÑA, Chicago, IL **1999–2000**
World-music ensemble that incorporates classic guitar and jazz, rock, blues, etc.
Vocalist

- Sang Spanish vocals and played flute in small venues

CHICAGO THEATRE PRODUCTIONS, Chicago, IL **1993–1996**

- *Ballad of a Man*, Quicksilver Productions
- *Girl Party*, Party Productions
- *The Left Hand of Darkness*, Lifeline Theater
- *Painting It Red: A Musical Play*, Zebra Cross Theater
- *Jack or the Submission*, Greasy Joan & Co.
- *Iphigenia and Other Daughters*, Greasy Joan & Co.

THE LAKESHORE SUMMER THEATER, Stevensville, MI **1976–1986**
Sampling of Musical Theater Roles

- *Lucy: You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*
- *Tzeitel: Fiddler on the Roof*
- Ensemble: *Godspell*
- Aunt Nettie: *Carousel*
- Mrs. MacAfee: *Bye Bye Birdie*

DISCOGRAPHY

SANTA FE: A MUSICAL IN THREE CULTURES, JIM MCCAMPBELL **2012**
• Features pianist Chris Sargent; bassist Joe Policastro; drummer Bob Rummage; and vocalists Paul Marinaro, Rose Colella, and Amanda Crumley

POETIC JUSTICE: THE MUSIC OF STEVE LANDSMAN **2011**
• Features pianist Jeremy Kahn, bassist Joe Policastro, drummer Jon Deitemeyer, and vocalist Paul Marinaro

COMES LOVE, THE ELAINE DAME QUARTET **2005**
• Features pianist Jeremy Kahn, bassist Rob Amster, drummer Tim Davis, and special guest musicians: trumpeter Art Davis, guitarist Dave Onderdonk, and violinist Johnny Frigo

SELECTED PRESS

"Dame has quietly risen to the top rank of Chicago jazz singers, with a light and cheerful timbre and musicality that allows her to improvise things most singers shouldn't even try"

— Neil Tesser, Author, **Playboy Guide to Jazz**, December 2010

"Jazz dynamo Dame continues to be a gem in the city's vocal jazz scene"

— **TimeOut Chicago**, October 2009

"A winning stage presence and a chameleon-like vocal flexibility"

— **The Reader**, November 1995

"From the start, it was apparent that Dame offered optimism, enthusiasm, and joy for both her partners and the jazz standards they played together. This musical attitude was just as appealing as her considerable vocal and flute-playing skills"

— **Chicago Jazz Magazine**, July/August 2009

"Elaine simply radiates from the stage, with an obvious passion for what she does and, more importantly, an openly expressed enjoyment of the very nature of the process. She is one of a rare group of singers who treats her instrument as just that, and so is able to perform with her band instead of just in front of them. Plus, there really may not be a nicer person on any stage in Chicago"

— Craig Cooper, Musical Director, **Pops for Champagne**, July 2006

"Dame's first CD is very smooth and stylish. Every track is note perfect...an intimate, personal style... [I]nterpretation is clearly her forte; she shapes a song like she's been doing it for years... Dame delivers the perfect twists and turns on every phrase, swinging from a whisper to a husky wail with confidence and panache"

— **JazzReview.com**, 2005