

Mixing it up with **DBR**

Daniel Bernard Roumain—known as DBR to friends and fans alike—spent four days in Ann Arbor in March, brought here under the good offices of Arts Enterprise, a student-led initiative between the School of Music, Theatre & Dance and the Ross School of Business. DBR was chosen not only for his prodigious talent as a musician but also because of his dynamic personality, entrepreneurial drive, and artistic savvy, all of which contributed to a series of events with relevance to a whole host of U-M habitués.

This innovative Haitian-American violinist, composer, performer, and bandleader, who got his master's ('95) and doctorate ('00) at the School, made excellent use of his time here as a student, collaborating with faculty and students across disciplines, mixing it up, exploring the full range of possibilities.

True to form, his recent visit maximized every moment. Picture this: DBR, with his signature dreadlocks, on the steps of the new Ross School of Business, pulling out all the stops with a strings-bending, electronic, Hendrix-esque rendition of *The Star Spangled Banner*.

That was his entrée into a b-school session called “Dreaming Deeply,” exploring issues of self-leadership and fulfillment in the business world and beyond.

He had their attention.

IN ONLY FOUR DAYS, DBR managed to: join faculty members Evan Chambers, Peter Sparling, Jessica Fogel, and Stephen Rush—all major influences on him as a student—for a series of short “conversation pieces” at Stamps Auditorium, moderated by Dean Christopher Kendall, all capped



off by a performance, with student players, of his *Rosa Parks String Quartet*. Perform with dance faculty member Sparling for the grand reopening of the U-M Museum of Art. Talk to students in composition about the role entrepreneurship has played in his success. Meet with a star-struck group of students from Forsythe Middle School about the importance of the arts and its power to shape how we experience the world.

Before returning to New York, DBR and his frequent collaborator DJ Scientific, producer and laptopist, put on a show at the Michigan League, performing tracks from their album *etudes4violin&electronix*. “The concert quickly took on the flavor of a dance party or rave,” says Michael Mauskapf, graduate student in musicology and executive director of Arts Enterprise, “complete with glow sticks and a CD signing afterwards.” The set ended with an impromptu jam with SMTD students.

“Daniel’s time on campus had an impact on some 450 people,” says Mauskapf. “Since then, Arts Enterprise has received an outpouring of emails and correspondence thanking Roumain and the entire University community for their roles in making the residency a success. We would like to echo those thanks to all who participated or were affected by Roumain’s time here—without them, it would not have been possible.” *De*

With special thanks to Michael Mauskapf

