



## Elaine Dame

727 W Briar Pl.  
Chicago, IL 60657  
773.296.0831

[www.elainedame.com](http://www.elainedame.com)  
[dame.elaine@gmail.com](mailto:dame.elaine@gmail.com)

### PROFILE

**Professional Musician with 27 years of experience as a Jazz Vocalist — Jazz Clubs, Arts Centers, Jazz Festivals, Corporate Events, Weddings, Private Parties, Fundraisers, Galas — and 18 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 correct breathing and proper placement using straw phonation. 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.

### SKILLS

Jazz voice teacher  
Piano teacher  
Professional jazz singer

Vocal workshop/clinic instructor  
Professional classical flautist  
Flute teacher

Professional actor  
Professional voice-over/jingle artist  
Professional musician's contractor

### EDUCATION

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

*\*A Former 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).*

### JAZZ BOOKING WORK

**WINTER'S JAZZ CLUB, Chicago, IL**

**June 2015–January 2019**

**Professional Talent Coordinator**

- Book local/national jazz artists, handling numerous booking-related details per owner's request: Serve as liaison between talent and owner
- Scout new talent, and negotiate contract agreements; field questions, develop new ideas, and relay final details
- Update and manage data and calendars; provide administrative support

**GOOD MEN CLUB, Mundelein, IL**

**March 2019–May 2019**

**EMERSON AND OLIVER, Woodstock, IL**

**January 2020–Jan 2021**

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**THE ELAINE DAME STUDIO, Chicago, IL**

**2008–Present**

**Private Jazz Vocal Instructor 2008–Present**

- Tailor and individualize lessons to help students, ages 7–72, increase their vocal range, endurance, and control; conquer vocal challenges; and get gigs as professional jazz singers
- Teach workshops/clinics: “The Great American Songbook: Performance and History”; “How to Get the Gig: PR for the Would-Be Professional”; “Scatting Workshops: Performance and History”; “Rhythm Section Workshop: How to Work with a Jazz Combo”

**Private Beginning Piano Instructor**

**1998–Present**

**Private Classical Flute Instructor**

**1978–1982**

**TULA'S JAZZ CLUB, Seattle, WA**

**2018**

**Teaching Artist**

- Taught Master Classes on interpreting and stylizing jazz standards (blues, Latin, and ballad styles), including rhythm section work involving individual critique/feedback

**THE CHICAGO ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS, Chicago, Illinois**

**2017**

- Presented Vocal Jazz Clinic on stage presence, stylizing standards, and mic technique

**THE CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC'S SUMMER JAZZ ACADEMY, Chicago, IL****2013****Scatting Instructor**

- First jazz vocalist hired to teach 5 hour-long scatting workshops ( part of a 2-week intensive jazz program) to students (grades 6–12) 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, prekindergarten 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 session to 5–20 instrumentalists/singers of all ages and skill levels to perform with jazz guitarist Andy Brown, while acting as host/emcee

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, Barcelona, Spain****1999, 2000****Annual Visiting Volunteer Vocal Artist/Instructor**

- Provided 2 workshops to students in grades 1 and 2

**PERFORMING EXPERIENCE****THE ELAINE DAME QUARTET, Chicago, IL****1997–Present****Jazz Vocalist, Flautist, Leader**

- Have performed American jazz standards at 300+ venues throughout Chicagoland, the Midwest, and the U.S., including these notable venues:

Chicago Jazz Festival 2017 (New Series Headliner)

Chicago Jazz Festival 2015 (Headliner)

The Jazz Showcase (Chicago)

Winter's Jazz Club (Chicago)

Andy's Jazz Club (Chicago)

The Fairmont Hotel (16-Month Residency)

The Dunmore Jazz Room (Minneapolis, MN)

Cliff Bells (Detroit, MI)

Kerrytown Concert House (Ann Arbor, MI)

Dazzle Jazz Club (Denver, CO)

The Mendel Center (Benton Harbor, MI)

Sharp 9 Gallery (Durham, NC)

Noce Jazz Club (Des Moines, IA)

Rainbow Room (4 headlining appearances: NY, NY)

Feinstein's 54 Below/ Feinstein's at Vitello's (NY and LA)

Metropolitan Room (New York, NY)

The Triad Theater (New York, NY)

The Jazz Estate (Milwaukee, WI)

Merriman's Playhouse (South Bend, IN)

Herb Alpert's Vibrato Grill (Los Angeles, CA)

Tula's Jazz Club (Seattle, WA)

The Art's Garage (Delray Beach, FL)

The Ravenscroft (Scottsdale, AZ)

C Grace Jazz Room (Raleigh, NC)

**ART CENTERS AND CONCERT PERFORMANCES***Something to Live For:**The Strayhorn/Ellington Collaboration**Easy to Love: A Cole Porter Valentine**By George! The Life and Work of George Gershwin**Holiday GI Jukebox: The Music of WWII**The Lady Lyricists: Queens of Tin Pan Alley***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**

## DISCOGRAPHY

### **REMINISCING**

**2025**

Features pianist Tom Vaitas, bassist Sam Peters, drummer Jon Deitemyer, guitarist Neal Alger, trumpet players Art Davis and Victor Garcia, and saxophonist Chris Madsen

### **THE GOLDEN AGE OF CHRISTMAS, MUSIC & LYRICS BY JEFF MEEGAN AND DAVID TOBIN**

**2022**

Featured vocalist on The Holidays are Meant to Share, My Gift is You, and Christmas Spectacular

### **YOU'RE MY THRILL Sophomore Recording**

**2014**

Features pianist Dennis Luxion, bassists Jake Vinsel and Jim Cox, drummer Jon Deitemyer, guitarist Andy Brown, trumpet player Art Davis, trombonist Russ Phillips, saxophonist Chris Madsen, and jazz vocalist Paul Marinaro

### **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: MUSIC & LYRICS BY STEVE LANDSMAN**

**2011**

Features pianist Jeremy Kahn, bassist Joe Policastro, drummer Jon Deitemyer, and vocalist Paul Marinaro

### **COMES LOVE Debut Recording**

**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

### **FUNDRAISING: YEARLY BENEFITS**

**2013–2018**

#### **Organizer / Host**

- Ending Sexual Violence – A Jazz Benefit for Rape Victim Advocates, the Chicago Theater Works, Chicago, IL
- An Evening of Music to Benefit Planned Parenthood, Southport & Irving, Chicago, IL
- Jazz for Women: A Benefit for the Chicago Foundation for Women, Southport & Irving, Chicago, IL
- Music for Matthew: A Benefit for the Matthew Shepard Foundation, Southport & Irving, Chicago, IL
- Jazz for Japan: A Benefit for the Earthquake/Tsunami Victims, Erwin Café, Chicago, IL
- A Benefit for the Chicago Women's Health Center with the Elaine Dame Trio, Roscoe's, Chicago, IL

## SELECTED PRESS

*"Her new album 'You're My Thrill' is exactly what you'd expect from a consummate pro here in Chicago. The sidemen are a who's who of top-notch players in town and the arrangements are refreshingly well thought out. There's a lot to like here, from a rather grooving take on "You're My Thrill" to a nice run through of "I Was Doing All Right."*

– **WDCB Jazz Radio**, December 2014

*"Dame has risen to the top ranks of Chicago jazz singers. She possesses all the musicality you could want in a true jazz vocalist – centered intonation, an enviable command of rhythm and a translucent but powerful instrument."*

– Neil Tesser, Grammar award-winning critic and author, **The Playboy Guide to Jazz**, November 2014

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

– **Time Out Chicago**, October 2009

"

*"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."*

– Keith Douglas, Managing Director, **Rainbow Room**, November 2015

*"Dame's first CD is very smooth and stylish. Every track is note perfect...an intimate, personal style... interpretation 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

*"A winning stage presence and a chameleon-like vocal flexibility."* – **The Chicago Reader**, November 1996