

Dr. Dion Cunningham



Award: Alumni Achievement Award - in The ARTS

Award Description: The Alumni Achievement Awards acknowledge the accomplishments of distinguished alumni across a spectrum of disciplines, including Arts & Sciences, Religion, Medicine (including various forms such as Psychiatry, Audiology, and Dentistry), Sports, Business, Finance, Technology and Engineering, and Education. These awards recognize individuals who have attained remarkable success in their respective professions and have made outstanding contributions to their communities

Justification: Born and raised in Nassau, Bahamas to parents, Deanza and Edris Cunningham, Dion Cunningham began his musical studies studying piano with Mrs. Dawn Sands. After graduating from high school at St. Augustine's College (Nassau, Bahamas), Dion attended Macalester College (St. Paul, MN) where he received both Biology and Music degrees studying piano with Mr. Don Betts. In 2013, Dion graduated from the prestigious Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University with a Master of Music in Piano studying with Marian Hahn. For his outstanding musical achievement, he was awarded the Frances W. Wentz Turner Memorial Prize. In 2019, Dion graduated from the University of Maryland with a Doctor of Musical Arts studying with Cleveland Page and Rita Sloan. In 2015, Dion was recognized nationally when was awarded 2nd prize in the American Protege International Piano and Strings competition as well as 3rd prize in the American Prize Solo Piano competition. As a result of his success, he made his debut in Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in November of that year. Dion has maintained an active career as a soloist and collaborator which has taken him to North and South America, the Caribbean and Europe. His participation in festivals include Art of Piano (Cincinnati, OH), Crescendo Music Festival (Hungary), Interharmony Music Festival (Italy) and Virtuosi e Bel Canto Festival (Italy). On the occasion of the Bahamas's 40th Anniversary of Independence, Dion was asked to present a solo recital at the request of the Governor General. Dion has also given performances at the bequest of the LINKS foundation of Maryland and has served as pianist for the world premiere of the opera "Qadar," commissioned by the