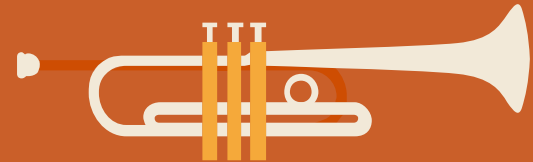
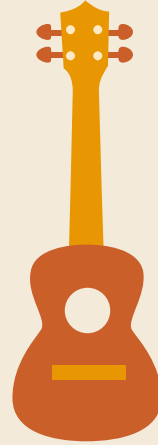


# American Dreamers: Voice Of Hope, Music of Freedom

By John Daversa Big Band Featuring DACA Artists



# Who is John Daversa?

- John Daversa is the Chair of the Studio Music as well as the Jazz Department at the University of Miami Frost School Of Music
- He's a performer, composer, and educator
- Daversa having grandparents who immigrated from Italy and being him being an educator inspired him to help Dreamers voices be heard
- Won 3 Grammys for the album American Dreamers



# What is DACA?

- DACA stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and it's a program that undocumented immigrants can apply to
- Those who can apply are people who were brought to the US when they were younger than 16
- Dreamers are those who are DACA recipients
- DACA provides Dreamers with the protection from being deported as well as many other benefits such as a work permit
- The DACA application fee is about \$500

# Purpose

- John Daversa wanted to give Dreamers a platform where they could tell their stories and be heard
- He wanted to show how resources like DACA are important to Dreamers
- The proceeds that were made from the album were going to help Dreamers pay the fees when re-applying for DACA

# Who is featured in the album?

- 53 Dreamers were featured in the album from 17 different states and 17 different countries
- Some of the countries include Belize, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Pakistan, Senegal, and Venezuela
- Dreamers sang, performed poetry, and even rapped
- Professional musicians were also featured on the album



# Album Cover



# Track List

Salvador 1:32

Living in America 5:52

Saba 1:41

Don't Fence me In 4:43

Caliph 1:35

Immigrant Song 3:17

Daisy 1:07

Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos)

Denzel 1:25

Stars and Stripes Forever 4:29

Alicia 1:16

America (West Side Story) 1:29

Juan Carlos 1:21

America the Beautiful 4:39

Maria 0:54

All is One 8:40

Edson 1:33

Red, White, and Remixed 3:27

# Saba

- Guitar, piano, and violin
- It's a calm piece and the rhythm remains the same throughout the song
- Saba was brought from Pakistan at 11 years old
- Grateful for DACA because of the opportunities that it offers
- She hopes that the dream act is passed so that she can continue giving back to the United States



# Don't Fence Me In

- Starts with drums and is very upbeat
- Trumpet, piano, drums, cymbals, and saxophone
- In the middle of the track all the instruments started playing together and it to me I thought it represented Dreamers speaking up
- The violin starts playing showing that things started calming down probably representing that Dreamers were starting to be heard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCHK7IDo6hE>

# Alicia

- Drums, cowbell, tambourine, and clapping
- The piece became more upbeat when the instruments started playing together
- Alicia was brought to the US from Peru at the age of 3
- There was times when she was growing up resenting her parents
- The camping trip she went on was what got her into playing drums

# America (West Side Story)

- Drums, tambourine, cowbell, and clapping
- It brings one's mood up
- Sounds like a song that one would dance to
- A piece that I would want to play with friends

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8IDGZUkF5U>

# Edson

- Piano, drums, and trumpet
- Edison tells his story through a poem
- He was brought to the US at 8 years old from Mexico
- He talks about how Dreamers and immigrants are called names
- How people don't recognize the effort that Dreamer's go through trying to live a better life
- When listening to the lyrics it'll make you think about immigration through the perspective of a Dreamer

# Red, White, and Remixed

- Saxophone, drums, trumpet, and electronic valve
- It's a upbeat song that makes people feel connected to each one way or another
- Ties the whole album together making listeners feel motivated to encourage change and educate others on DACA

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHjJrWGVleI&list=OLAK5uy\\_IBCKq008wjYOEw-hX4hunDJUWhGbIC950&index=18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHjJrWGVleI&list=OLAK5uy_IBCKq008wjYOEw-hX4hunDJUWhGbIC950&index=18)

“Music has always been tied to the fight for justice. During the Civil Rights Movement, Nina Simone and John Coltrane performed what became anthems for freedom. *American Dreamers* continues this tradition of using music to send an important message: Dreamers are Americans. You will hear these young Americans performing jazz at the highest level, speaking about their hopes, and affirming their love of the country they call home”

—Vice President Kamala Harris

# Work Cited

- <https://www.johndaversa.com/american-dreamers>
- <http://dreamersjazz.us/about/>
- <https://glidemagazine.com/214046/john-daversa-and-his-big-band-featuring-daca-artists-bring-poignant-stories-to-american-dreamers-voices-of-hope-and-music-of-freedom-album-review/>
- <https://students.wustl.edu/what-is-daca/>