

In the world of pop music, the word "artist" gives a certain struggling genius stature to performers who may or may not deserve it. It doesn't matter who wrote, arranged or produced a song, the person closest to the microphone is officially the artist. But when referring to Daniel Bernard Roumain, better known as DBR, you can be pretty darn comfortable using the term.

The composer and violinist's current project *One Loss Plus* is a "multimedia work for electronic/acoustic violin, piano, electronics, and video." He has called on his fans to submit audio, video, photo or text to be incorporated into the show, beginning November 14 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. But it's not just a visual component that makes DBR unique—the Harlem-based prodigy took up the violin at five because "sometimes an instrument just calls to you." But he hasn't let that calling dictate the kind of music he plays, which includes hip-hop, funk and rock in addition to classical, sometimes all at once. "My father had a real eclectic taste in music, so I grew up with ABBA, the Jackson 5, Haitian folk, and Beethoven. My dad was iPodding before there were iPods." This mix-and-match philosophy of music, along with

extraordinary talent, has earned DBR praise from the *New York Times* to NPR to fans of all ages.

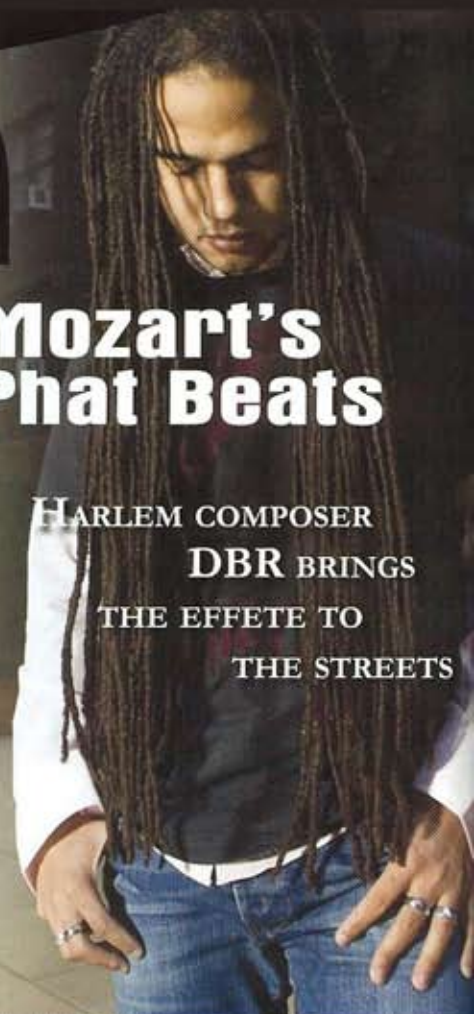
One of DBR's most successful projects in the past year was "24 Bits: Hip Hop Studies and Etudes," a defining work of his mission to be a "classical-urban ambassador." The project was inspired by his work with students, ranging from age seven to 70, at the Harlem School of Arts. "They were a real reminder of how life affecting and life changing music can be," says DBR. "One only needs to look at the statistics of men in my demographic to know that music saved my life."

DBR's commercial debut album, *études4violin&electronic*, was released by Thirsty Ear in May, and he'll put out an album with his band DBR & the Mission next year. For information on *One Loss Plus* performances, visit www.dbrmusic.com.

dbr

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