

## Daniel Curtis Interview

Daniel Curtis is the only performer who has appeared with the Key West Pops as both soloist and guest conductor, and all in one season! Daniel, a 2004 graduate of Key West High School, is a virtuoso pianist and bassoonist. He continued his study of these instruments at Amherst College, where he graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. At Amherst, Daniel also studied conducting, and conducted the Amherst Orchestra, where he also was the principal bassoonist.

At the Pops *Home for the Holidays* concert this past December, Daniel conducted the orchestra while his brother, Clinton Curtis, displayed his vocal talents. “Vincent Zito is very generous, giving young people wonderful opportunities,” he said. The experience was even more special for Daniel because it was in his home town. “I looked around at the audience at St. Paul’s, and it seemed like a reunion of old friends,” he recalled.

Daniel returns on March 6<sup>th</sup> as one of the featured soloists in the Pops final concert of the season, *Piano Men*. “I feel lucky that every time I come home to Key West I have a musical project to work on,” he said. It is Daniel’s second piano performance with the Pops. At a prior concert, he performed a concerto with Jeffrey Chappell, who will share the stage with Daniel once again in *Piano Men*.

Daniel has chosen to focus on conducting as he pursues his musical career in New York City. “I love the music written for orchestra and choral groups,” he explained. “I enjoy investigating the score, and the experience of being performer, analyst and interpreter of the music.” Currently Daniel serves as assistant to Maestro David Jackson at New York’s Metropolitan Opera. He also is the associate conductor at the Bleeker Street Opera Company, also in New York City, and continues as assistant conductor at Amherst.

Don't miss Daniel and five other great pianists when the Key West Pops presents *Piano Men* at the Tennessee Williams Theatre on Saturday, March 6.