

## Darryl Jordan

It is a rare moment indeed when Darryl Jordan is not doing at least two things if not more, so it is not surprising that while I interviewed him he was coaching Gilman students at a track meet in Philly and intermittently cheering and laughing with the students while talking with me on his cell phone...

Mr. Jordan was born August 27, 1981 on Baltimore's East side. He attended Baltimore County public schools through 8<sup>th</sup> grade and then enrolled at Gilman for high school where he graduated in 1999. Then it was on to NYU in Manhattan where he earned a B.S. degree in Music Education in 2003; oh, and he taught at a Catholic school in Harlem during this time. Returning to Baltimore, he taught music at Ashburton Middle School before beginning at Gilman in Fall 2005 where he teaches music and life skills...and serves as a sprint coach for the track team.

Some other things Darryl does: he is the Music and Worship Leader at New Song, a member of Soulful Symphony (he sang with them at the Meyerhoff last night!), and the director of Cross Culture; he is directing the Roland Park Country School Gospel Choir on a short-term basis, he provides music and singing at Habitat house dedications, he is pursuing an MDiv degree through Reformed Theological Seminary, and he attends many funerals, social gatherings and family events. And on Tuesday he will celebrate one year of dating Jenny Tibbels.

Darryl is an educator and musician who loves performing and sharing his talent with others. He loves "interculturalism and bringing people together; music does that." Other things he loves: working with kids, reading, open spaces and areas by the water, and of course playing piano and singing. He said more than one person has stated that "if you put me in a room with a piano you may not get me out of there!" He said he does not like "barriers that keep people separated, Sunday segregation, and injustice."

Darryl was raised in a Christian home by his mother. Speaking of his faith, he says "God has always kept bringing me back to his truth. I am learning to really trust God as a deliverer and a restorer." Why did he join New Song? "I needed a family-oriented church founded on truth that was multicultural."

Darryl speaks of influences on his life while he was growing up that include Father Miller at St. Bernardine's and Gilman coaches, but most of all his mother Beverly "who raised me and my older brother Donnell as a single parent." He is thrilled that his relationship with his father is in the process of being renewed.

Finally, Darryl has two cats. The first is named Symphony. The second was homeless and came to New Song one day seeking love and assistance; Darryl took him in, and Jenny named him Mercy.