



# Above the Noise: My Story of Chasing Calm DeMar DeRozan

Six-time NBA All-Star and two-time gold medalist for the United States Men's Basketball Team.

## Hanif Abdurraqib

Award-winning poet, essayist, cultural critic, and 2021 MacArthur Fellow.

**Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 7:00 PM**  
Register: [www.bit.ly/DeRozanFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/DeRozanFANWebinar)

**BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY, sponsored by FAN!**  
Details on Zoom registration page.

This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded.  
Suitable for youth 12+

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DEMAR DEROZAN – ON ZOOM**

**CONTACT:** Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 7:00 PM, [Above the Noise: My Story of Chasing Calm](#), a FAN webinar featuring DeMar DeRozan in conversation with Hanif Abdurraqib (FAN '21, '24). **REGISTER:** [www.bit.ly/DeRozanFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/DeRozanFANWebinar)

**BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY!** We are giving away copies of *Above the Noise* to randomly selected Zoom attendees. Details on the webinar registration page.

*“As men, and especially Black men, we don’t talk about our mental health enough. We struggle to admit when things aren’t okay, even when it’s obvious to everybody around us. I’ve seen how toxic that can become. I’ve experienced it myself, keeping everything under wraps until your head and heart are full of fire and rage.” – DeMar DeRozan*

**DeMar DeRozan**, six-time NBA All-Star, has been called a “basketball savant” (ESPN) and “the best closer in the NBA” (GQ)—but when he went public with his depression, it sparked a conversation that reached far beyond the court. By breaking the stigma of speaking out, he added a new, seldom-heard voice to the mental health dialogue: a successful Black male athlete, openly naming his pain and advocating for others to do the same.

Now it’s time to tell the full story. Born and raised in Compton, DeRozan was no stranger to hardship—living in poverty, losing friends to gang violence. In worn-out school gyms and community centers, fueled by hunger and a desire to prove himself, he started to rise, but doubts followed. In *Above the Noise: My Story of Chasing Calm*, DeRozan opens up about his proudest triumphs and the times he felt so weighed down he couldn’t get out of bed. He reflects on what it took to make a name for himself in a new country after getting drafted by the Toronto Raptors, the pressure of playing with veteran athletes as a twenty-year-old rookie, and the pain of losing role models.

From a scared, angry kid to a confident father of five, DeRozan traces his journey to basketball stardom and the forces that honed him into the player—and the slowly healing person—he is today. It will encourage anyone who has ever felt alone in their struggles and inspire people to rise above the noise and speak their truth.

DeRozan will be in conversation with **Hanif Abdurraqib** (FAN '21, '24), *New York Times* bestselling poet, essayist, cultural critic, and 2021 MacArthur Fellow. FAN hosted Abdurraqib in 2021 in support of his award-winning book *A Little Devil in America: Notes in Praise of Black Performance*, and also for his most recent book, 2024’s *There’s Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension*.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN’s website and YouTube channel.

Sponsored by **FAN**, in partnership with The Avery Coonley School, Baker Demonstration School, Beacon Academy, Bernard Zell Anshe Emet Day School, Brickton Montessori School, British International School of Chicago/Lincoln Park, British International School of Chicago/South Loop, Catherine Cook School, Chicago Jewish Day School, Compass Health Center, Countryside Day School, Evanston Scholars, Evanston Township High School D202, The Family Institute at Northwestern University, Family Service Center, Foundation 65, The Frances Xavier Warde School, Francis W. Parker School, Glencoe D35, Glenview Public Library, Gorton Center, Haven Youth and Family Services, Hyde Park Day School, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, Kenilworth D38, Lake Forest Community High School D115, Lake Forest Country Day School, Latin School of Chicago, Leo Catholic High School, Libertyville D70, Lycée Français de Chicago, Magnetar Capital, Near North Montessori School, North Shore Country Day, Northwestern University Office of Neighborhood and Community Relations, Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy, Pope John XXIII School, Regina Dominican High School, Resurrection College Prep High School, Rogers Park Montessori School, Roycemore School, Santa Clara University School of Law, Science & Arts Academy, The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School, Stevenson High School D125, Wilmette Public Library, Wolcott College Prep, Woodlands Academy, Youth & Opportunity United.