Born in 1915 in Minnesota, Daniel Martino began his collegiate conducting career at the University of Minnesota as a graduate assistant from 1941-1942. While at Minnesota, Martino was one of two students selected to study conducting with Dimitri Mitropoulos, Music Director and Conductor of the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera. In 1942, Gerald Prescott, Director of Bands at Minnesota from 1932-1957, was drafted into active duty in WWII. Martino was appointed interim director for the academic year and was to remain at Minnesota for the next four years. Martino left Minnesota after the war to become head of the instrumental music department at Bradley College in Peoria, Illinois. In 1946 he became Director of Bands at Ohio University.

In 1948, he was appointed Director of Bands at Indiana University at the time when the band program separated from the Military Department to become the Department of Bands. The newly organized Department of Bands had four main concert units: The Symphony Band, the Concert Band, the Varsity Band and the Junior Varsity Band, as well as two marching units, the Marching Hundred and the Army ROTC Band. The famed Marching Hundred adopted an entirely different style of show—the pageant. In 1951, the department was incorporated into the School of Music. Martino was elected into the American Bandmasters Association in 1951.

After leaving Indiana in 1953, Martino was hired as Coordinator of Music Education and Professor of Applied Brass at Brigham Young University. Martino left Brigham Young to become Professor of Music and Head of Cultural Affairs for both Weber State University and the City of Ogden, Utah. He remained in Ogden for 35 years and died in 2001 at the age of 86.