

The Department of Performing Arts Presents...

FUSION BAND AND ROCK ENSEMBLE

Fall Concert

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

7:30 PM



Mandell Theater
3220 Chestnut St
Philadelphia, PA



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Music

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design

Letter from the Department

Welcome to this concert presentation by the Music Program in the Department of Performing Arts. We are delighted to have the wonderful support of great families and friends. A very special welcome goes out to our visitors from the community who may not have any affiliation to our students, and simply come to hear spectacular musical performances by these talented student musicians. We hope everyone in our audience is pleased with the musical selections; and proud of the achievement of the students involved.

The students you will hear at this performance are not music majors. They do this for their love of music and dedicate their time and energy to cultivating their passion for this art form. They are as dedicated to their studies and career pursuits as they are to this intrinsic passion they have within them. The program is fortunate to have a bounty of students with this yearning. We would not exist without them!

The Music Program and Department of Performing Arts is dedicated to providing robust opportunities in the performing arts while students are at Drexel. Our goal is to provide a positive and supportive

Letter from the Department

environment for our students. It is our hope that students and audiences alike feel they are represented in the selections being performed. The human connection is most important to us all.

Thank you for attending this performance. Being here is the greatest show of support for the students, the Music Program, and the Department of Performing Arts. Thanks to the dedicated leadership of the faculty ensemble directors and staff, we are pleased to present you with the following program.

Sincerely,

Luke Abruzzo, Music Program Director

Miriam Giguere, PhD, Department Head, Performing Arts



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

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Upcoming Performing Arts Events

JAZZ ORCHESTRA

December 7, 2023 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

GOSPEL CHOIR

December 8, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Mandell Theater

DREXEL UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

December 8, 2023 | 7:30 PM | Main Auditorium

ALL COLLEGE CHOIR AND CHAMBER BRASS AND WINDS

December 9, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Main Auditorium

MEDITERRANEAN ENSEMBLE

December 9, 2023 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

UNIVERSITY CHORUS AND CHAMBER SINGERS

December 10, 2023 | 3:00 PM | Great Court

CONCERT BAND

December 10, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Mandell Theater

FRESHDANCE

February 8, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

February 10, 2024 | 2:00 PM | Mandell Theater

DREXEL DANCE ENSEMBLE

February 9-10, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

DREXEL THEATRE: NO WAY, JOSE!

February 17, 2024 | 3:30 PM & 7:00 PM | URBN Annex Black Box

[Learn more about our upcoming events:](#)

drexel.edu/performingarts

Acknowledgements

The Drexel Fusion Band and Drexel Rock Ensemble would like to thank everyone in the Performing Arts office: Esteban Reina Soto, Galen Blanzaco, LaShanetta Harris, and our fearless leaders, Luke Abruzzo & Dr. Miriam Giguere.

Mike Moss Memorial Fund



The Myron "Mike" Moss Memorial Fund supports Drexel University students pursuing projects in music or collaborative projects in the performing arts, including further study and support for performances. Dr. Moss, the Music Program Director and Drexel Concert Band

Conductor, passed away suddenly in 2012. The fund in his name seeks to assist students in the tradition of his passionate support for student involvement in the Performing Arts.

Student applications are due January 20, 2024. If you are interested in donating towards this fund or want more information, please click the link below.

drexel.edu/performingarts/scholarships/moss-memorial-fund/

Program

The Drexel University Fusion Band

Lynn Riley, Director

"Cissy Strut" -----	The Meters
"No Me Esqueca"-----	J. Henderson
"Manteca" -----	D. Gillespie, G. Fuller, C. Pozo
"Watermelon Man" -----	H. Hancock
"Flood in Franklin Park" -----	S. Laster

Ensemble Members

Lynn Riley

Ensemble Director

Jake Karwoski

Trumpet

Aleko Nicolacakis

Trumpet

Lynn Riley

Soprano and Alto Sax

Jake Larimer

Alto Sax

John Michel Szulinski

Baritone Sax

Rodrigo Galavis

Guitar

Kenneth Blake

Keys

Connor Zabielski

Bass and Percussion

Sithira Tennakoon

Bass and Percussion

Cooper Gordon

Vibraphone and Percussion

Jett Mann

Percussion

Tyler Romeo

Drums

Program

The Drexel University Rock Ensemble

Greg Wright, Director

"All I Wanted Is You"Paramore
"Reptilia"The Strokes
"Time To Dance"Panic! At The Disco
"Make Me Wanna Die"The Pretty Reckless
"Paranoid Android"Radiohead
'Cry You A Song"Jethro Tull
"Tornado Of Souls"Megadeath

Ensemble Members

Greg Wright

Ensemble Director

Jesse Beato

Bass

Matt Callaway

Drums

Shaun Hirsch

Drums and Vocals

Kat Krajewski

Vocalist

Bryant Lu

Guitar

Dominic Panto

Guitar

Gwyn Rothman

Vocalist

Gabi Ruiz

Vocalist and Keyboards

Lynn Riley

Fusion Band Director



Lynn Riley is an Assistant Professor of Music in the Performing Arts Department and director of the Fusion Band. She wrote the arrangements for and produced their 8 recordings, *All the Places In Between* (2022), *Tell Me Something Funky* (2019), *Tell Me Something Good* (2018), *Funk Out Front* (2016), *Black and Blue* (2014), *Comin' Home Baby* (2012), *Don't You Worry 'Bout a Thing* (2010) and *Cold Duck Sauce, Best of Drexel Fusion Band* (2008).

Lynn also directs the music program for the community-based learning practicum PRFA-100. The course pairs Drexel students with community children to teach free after-school music classes at the Dornsife Center, Drexel's civic engagement center. Lynn has been described more than once as "Superwoman" of the sax. Born in Washington, D.C., and raised outside of Philadelphia, Pa., she received a M.L.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in Ethnomusicology from the University of Hawaii. Lynn has performed with many legendary musicians, including Grover Washington Jr., Philly Joe Jones, David Bromberg, Peter White, David Murray, Frank Wess, Shirley Scott, Charles Earland, Johnny Pacheco, as well as leading her own groups. She performed in the documentary *Women to Women*, Monnette Sudler's tribute to Shirley Scott and Trudy Pitts. Lynn was the 2020 Artist in Residence at Paris Bistro Jazz Café. She recorded in the Emmy award-winning documentary *Philadelphia: The Great Experiment*. She was chosen to present her band at the Painted Bride Arts Center for their series *Women Leaders in Jazz*. She has opened for artists such as Najee, Spyro Gyra, Nelson Rangell, Nester Torres, Andy Narell, the Indigo Girls, Brenda K Star, the Mahotella Queens and Compai Segundo of the Buena Vista Club. She has performed throughout the United States, as well as in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. Her latest recording *HEAD TO THE SKY Lynn Riley & The World-Mix* (2022), *Say What Lynn Riley and The World Mix* (2014) and *Too Cool* (2009) are all available on Amazon, iTunes, Spotify and at www.lynnriley.com.

Greg Wright

Rock Ensemble Director



Greg Wright is an instructor of guitar, banjo, mandolin, ukulele at Drexel University, and also coordinates recording with music industry classes. When he is not teaching, Greg performs on guitar, plectrum banjo, electric bass, mandolin & ukulele.

Greg's undergraduate degree is from Combs College and he also teaches jazz guitar at Swarthmore College. He also coordinates all music courses at Harcum College.

Greg is the director and co-creator of Summer Music Programs, Inc., which develops skills of young musicians in professional recording, performance and rehearsal disciplines. This program received "Best of Philly" 2008 Philadelphia Magazine for best summer camp and 2007 Coolest Camps on the Main Line, Main Line Magazine.

Greg was a bandleader for SWING SHIFT, a versatile, small Big Band that performed events and concerts throughout the tri-state area from 1988 until 2008. Greg's interest in banjo and the music of New Orleans & traditional jazz started in the 1990's as he led the Big Easy Dixieland Band. He also currently performs Hot Jazz with Drew Nugent & The Midnight Society and is a member of the Wild Bohemians, a thirty-year Philadelphia tradition of NOLA street music.

In addition, you will find Greg strolling vintage train excursions, singing and playing banjo in West Chester and New Hope, performing holiday music. Vintage rock band, traditional/modern Celtic music, solo acoustic guitar gigs, jazz trios are all current activities that fill his schedule.

Drexel University Department of Performing Arts Staff

Department Head

Dr. Miriam Giguere

Program Directors

Luke Abruzzo

Music

Nick Anselmo

Theatre

Blanca Huertas-Agnew

Dance

Administrative Staff

Galen Blanzaco

Department Assistant

LaShanetta Harris

Department Administrator

Caroline Leipf

Mandell Theater Managing Director

Esteban Reina Soto

Performing Arts Graduate Assistant

Liv Shoup

Audience Services Coordinator

Lauren Tracy

Ensemble Production Associate

Production Staff

Paul Jerue

Theatre Production Manager/Black Box Theater Technical Director

Asaki Kuruma

Costume Shop Manager

Chris Totoro

Mandell Theater Technical Director

Interested in a Music Minor?

Drexel offers four different music minors:

Music: requires 26 credits, including work in Music Theory, History, private lessons, ensemble performance, and 9 credits of music electives.

Music Theory and Composition: aimed at people who are writing their own music or who would like to begin doing so. You will take courses in Music Theory, Arranging, Composition, and Digital Composition, and end with a portfolio of several completed pieces.

Music Performance: requires two years of private lesson studies with our artist faculty culminating in a recital. The Music Program will provide support for the recital venue and accompanist.

Jazz & African-American Music: includes course work in Jazz History, African-American Music, Jazz Theory, private study in Jazz performance, and ensemble work in several ensembles devoted to jazz.

Support Great Performance

Performing arts are a vital part of the Drexel academia and student life. Donations support the operation of our performing arts venues, including the Mandell Theater and URBN Annex Black Box Theater, as well as performing arts ensembles and programs.

Celebrate 50 years of Mandell Theater with a gift to Drexel Performing Arts today!

[Giving.drexel.edu/PerformingArts](https://giving.drexel.edu/PerformingArts)



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