

The Department of Performing Arts Presents...

# Mediterranean Ensemble

## Fall Concert

Directed by *Bruce Kaminsky*

Honoring *Michele (Meesha) Tayoun*  
and *Bill Koutsouros*

Saturday  
December 9, 2023  
7:30 PM

Mandell Theater  
3220 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Music

*Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design*

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# Letter from the Department

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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



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# Letter from the Department

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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**



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# Upcoming Performing Arts Events

## 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:](https://drexel.edu/performingarts)  
[drexel.edu/performingarts](https://drexel.edu/performingarts)



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# Acknowledgements

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The Mediterranean Ensemble would like to thank:  
Jason Schupbach, Dean of the Westphal College of Media Arts and Design  
Dr. Miriam Giguere, Department Head  
Luke Abruzzo, Music Program Director  
LaShanetta Harris, Department Administrator  
Galen Blanzaco, Department Assistant  
Esteban Reina Soto, Graduate Assistant  
Caroline Leipf, Mandell Theater Managing Director  
Chris Totoro, Production Manager and Technical Director, Mandell Theater

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## Mike Moss Memorial Fund

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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/](https://drexel.edu/performingarts/scholarships/moss-memorial-fund/)

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# Program

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## The Drexel University Mediterranean Ensemble

Mr. Bruce Kaminsky, Director

La Mourisque -----	Susato in Moorish style
Al Bint El Chalabiya -----	Lebanese Trad. Rihbani Brothers
Adio Querida -----	Sephardi Ladino
Milo Mou Kokkino -----	Trad. Greek Kalamatianós
Longa Farahfaza -----	Riyad is-Sinbadi
Aman Aman Yalmani /Afro Blue -----	Trad. Tunisian/M. Santamaria
Scalerica de Oro -----	Trad. Sephardi Ladino
Baym Rebin -----	Trad. Klezmer
La Vie En Rose -----	French - Loiguy/Piaf
Doumbaliki -----	Koutsouros
Nassam Alayna al-Hawa -----	Lebanese Rihbani Brothers

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## Ensemble Members

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**Mr. Bruce Kaminsky**  
Ensemble Director

**Alto Saxophone**

Pascal Castillo

**Double Bass**

Kasta Marigna

**Electric Bass**

Colin McVety  
Colston Raroha

**Clarinet/Claves**

Alex Whelan

**Violin**

Lucy Gamble

**Piano**

Cole Herrmann

**Vocals**

Lizzie Cosgrove  
Dahlia Ufberg

**Mandolin**

Dylan Ugel

**Percussion**

Lizzie Cosgrove  
Graham Hornecker

Haris Qasim

Dahlia Ufberg

**Guitar**

Michael Steuber



# Guest Artists



Michele “Meesha” Tayoun is a dynamic, and passionate performer and educator of Middle Eastern dance and song. Raised in the legendary Lebanese American Tayoun family, she has brought her talents to audiences of all ages through her work with The Spice Route Ensemble <https://animusmusic.com/spiceroute> and other educational programs.

Bill Koutsouros is a multi-instrumentalist band leader and educator. He is a descendant of one of Philadelphia’s most prestigious Greek American musical families. Bill’s performances on the “bouzouki” “oud” and “doubek” with his Middle Eastern fusion music band Animus Music <https://animusmusic.com/music> have brought him national recognition. Bill is also with the Spice Route Ensemble, which brings together traditional Arabic, Jewish and Greek music for school programs.



# Mr. Bruce Kaminsky

## Mediterranean Ensemble Director



Bruce Kaminsky, M.M. is a bassist and an Adjunct Professor at Drexel University, teaching Music History, Bass and directing the Drexel Mediterranean Ensemble. He also teaches at Montgomery County Community College. He has performed with jazz guitarist Tal Farlow and trombonist Jimmy Knepper, and co-produced performances for Dizzy Gillespie

and Chick Corea. He performed for the signing of the Israeli/Jordanian Peace Accord at the United Nations with the group Atzilut. He created the Arab/Jewish music group The Spice Route Ensemble, which does Middle Eastern music education residencies. He designs and manufactures the KYDD electric upright bass sold worldwide, and he holds two US patents. Bruce is married to theatrical costumer Lorraine Anderson and has two children, Jacob and Aviva and a new granddaughter, Adira.



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# Drexel University Department of Performing Arts Staff

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## 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 URBAN 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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