

The Department of Performing Arts Presents...

PERCUSSION & ENSEMBLE EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC ENSEMBLE

WE ARE
THE MUSIC
MAKERS,
AND
WE ARE
THE DREAMERS
OF DREAMS.

Sunday, December 1st

3:00 PM

Creese Student Center
3210 Chestnut St
Philadelphia, PA



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Music

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design

FALL CONCERT SERIES

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 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

Acknowledgements

The Drexel University Percussion Ensemble would like to Thank: Christopher Farrell and his fabulous Experimental Music Ensemble; Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design's Dean - Jason Schupach; Performing Arts Department Head – Dr. Miriam Giguere; Music Program Director – Luke Abruzzo; Performing Arts Ensemble Associate – Lauren Tracy; Performing Arts Department Administrator – Hannah Burke; Administrative Assistant – Ellie Ebby; Department of Performing Arts Graduate Assistant – Cecelia Hill.

The Experimental Music Ensemble would like to thank Mark Beecher and the wonderfully talented Percussion Ensemble; Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design's Dean - Jason Schupbach; Performing Arts Department Head – Dr. Miriam Giguere; Music Program Director – Luke Abruzzo; Performing Arts Ensemble Associate – Lauren Tracy; Performing Arts Department Administrator – Hannah Burke; Administrative Assistant – Ellie Ebby; Department of Performing Arts Graduate Assistant – Cecelia Hill.

Drexel Performing Arts would like to thank Senior Vice President for Student Success, Dr. Subir Sahu, for his continued support of Performing Arts at Drexel.



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About The Ensembles

In the Drexel University Percussion Ensemble, students gain valuable experience and training on the orchestral mallet instruments, such as the marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, bells, & timpani, traditional ethnic hand percussion instruments such as the congas, bongos, djembe, dumbek, as well as on the drum kit. The Ensemble also incorporates modern percussion technology, the addition of non-traditional percussive instruments, dancers, guest conductors and audio/visual aids for arrangements. Students are also featured as soloists or conductors during the concerts and provided with the arena to create their own compositions and arrangements.

The Experimental Music Ensemble challenges forms of creation, improvisation, and collaboration in music while fostering an environment of creativity, teamwork, and community. Like sand mandala, each improvisational performance is unique and unable to be replicated.



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About The Concert

The Drexel University Percussion Ensemble presents our Fall Concert with the Experimental Music Ensemble. We are featuring music by Erik Satié, Bob Marley, theme music from the video game, Zelda, the funk band, Tower of Power, the band Chon, and a few Drumline style pieces, and other surprises.

The Experimental Music Ensemble presents an improvisational score is based on 8 different “modes” that the students ensemble members developed in rehearsals.

Each mode has its own physical gesture, activated by the conductor.

Sometimes the ensemble will collectively be in the same mode while in other moments they will all be in separate ones.



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Program

The Drexel University Percussion Ensemble

Mark Beecher, Director

Sterling -----Blue Devils Drum Corps
Title Theme from Legend of -----Koji Kondo, Arr. Dj-Jo
Zelda: Ocarina of Time and Orch Azzara
Gymnopedie No. 1 -----Erik Satie, Arr. Claude Debussy
and Eric C. W. Peel
No Signal -----Chon, Arr. Jesse Valencia
Three Little Birds -----Bob Marley, Arr. Rod Herrera
What is Hip? -----Stephen Kupka, Emilio Castillo, and
David Garibaldi, Arr. Robert P.
Come Together -----John Lennon and Paul McCartney
combined performance with Experimental Music Ensemble

Ensemble Members

Mark Beecher
Ensemble Director

Student Percussionists

Alvin Abraham
Jason Adams
Oron Barash
Kirsten Benes

Suhas Ghatti
Harang Kang
Jude Kodama
Benjamin Muller

Mia Nagy
Izzy Patrizio
Mark Sadovskiy
Ezra Smith-Pohl

Big thanks to Caleb Altizer for filling in on keyboards!



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

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Program

The Drexel University Experimental Music Ensemble

Christopher Farrell, Music Director

The Dreamers of Dreams ----- Ensemble Students
Original Improvisational Score

Ensemble Members

Christopher Farrell

Ensemble Director

Jimmy Aiello

Synth

Emmet Keenan

Prepared Guitar

Zachary Beaver

Bass

Owen Malette

Laptop

Monica Buzzanca

Trumpet

Tanish Shibu Thomas

Piano

Alina Hernandez

Violin

Jeremy Wells

Electric Guitar

Colin Keenan

Drums

Nikola Zvonik

Theramini



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

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Mark Beecher

Percussion Ensemble Director



Mark Beecher has over 35 years' experience, playing and teaching worldwide. Mark attended Widener University, where he performed & toured with the Widener Jazz Ensemble, directed by Woody Herman alumnus, John Vanore. Mark studied with Latin percussion masters Frankie Malabe and Jose Luis 'Changuito'

Quintana, African drumming master Oscar Sulley, Eastern Indian drumming master T.N. Bala, and Frank Zappa drummers, Chad Wackerman & Chester Thompson.

Mark has performed on stage with a number of GRAMMY Winning & Nominated artists, such as Shania Twain, The Chieftains, Kathy Sledge (of Sister Sledge), drummer Peter Erskine, Elio Villafranca, etc.; he has recorded over 30 albums with a variety of artists, his drum tracks were featured on an album included in the Billboard Top 10, as well as, in the soundtrack for the CBS TV hit series, "Criminal Minds"; Mark is a Spotify Verified Artist, a voting member of the GRAMMYs (Recording Academy), his creative work has been a part of 2 GRAMMY Winning albums and 6 Nominated albums; he's authored a number of published works, including 'The Rudimental Percussionist' and the book, 'I.A.R.P. Rudimental Solos,' as well as his own instructional DVD, 'The Art of Ancient Rudimental Drumming,' which has been endorsed by members of the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Pittsburgh Symphony.

Mark Beecher

Percussion Ensemble Director

As a Drum & Percussion Instructor with over 30 years' experience, Mark has taught award-winning high school bands and drum corps, including the Independence Fife & Drum Corps, Valley Forge Military Academy Field Music and the Washington Memorial Pipe Band; he has conducted several Drumming & Percussion clinics and seminars with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA).

Mark is a member of the Percussive Arts Society, The Company of Fifers & Drummers and is the President of The National Association of Rudimental Drummers (NARD) - originally founded in 1933 and sponsored by the Ludwig Drum Company.

Mark Beecher is an endorser for Ludwig Drums, Evans Drumheads & Vic Firth Drumsticks

Christopher Farrell

Experimental Music Ensemble Director



Christopher B. Farrell is an award-winning composer for [Red Earth Calling](#), multi-instrumentalist, producer, and founder of the critically acclaimed instrumental ensemble, the [Rit Mo Collective](#). Christopher has scored music for over 100 multi-media productions including film, television, dance, and spoken word poetry. He averages over 150 live performances a year and has performed on five continents during his 33-year career as a musician.

As an Educator, Christopher is currently in the Music/Dance faculty at Drexel & Temple Universities and a Dance Accompanist at Swarthmore College. His previous appointments include Accompanist at University of the Arts in Philadelphia (2012-2020), Lecturer at Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogota, Colombia (2018-2019), Excel Summer Music Program Director at UC Santa Cruz (2003) & Oxford University (2001 & 2002), and English Teacher at The UC Berkley affiliated Anglo American School in Bologna, Italy. (1999 – 2003)

Samples of his work can be found at found at: [Mud: Bodies of History](#), [Red Earth Calling](#), and [Sound Cloud](#).

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

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

Celebrate the arts with a gift to Drexel Performing Arts today!

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



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Performing Arts

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To learn more, visit drexel.edu/performingarts

Drexel University Department of Performing Arts Staff

Department Head

Dr. Miriam Giguere

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Music

Nick Anselmo
Theatre

Jennifer Morley
Dance

Administrative Staff

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Hannah Burke
Department Administrator

Caroline Leipf
Mandell Theater Managing Director

Cece Hill
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

Upcoming Performing Arts Events

CHAMBER STRINGS

December 3, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Main Auditorium

FUSION BAND AND ROCK ENSEMBLE

December 3, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

MEDITERRANEAN ENSEMBLE

December 4, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

JAZZ ORCHESTRA AND JAZZTET

December 5, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

DREXEL UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

December 6, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Main Auditorium

END-OF-TERM THEATRE SHOWCASE - WINTER

December 7, 2024 | 1:00 PM | URBN Annex Black Box Theater

DREXEL UNIVERSITY GOSPEL CHOIR

December 7, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Mandell Theater

ALL-COLLEGE CHOIR AND CHAMBER BRASS AND WINDS

December 7, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Main Auditorium

UNIVERSITY CHORUS AND CHAMBER SINGERS

December 8, 2024 | 3:00 PM | Great Court in Main Building

DREXEL UNIVERSITY CONCERT BAND

December 8, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Mandell Theater

Learn more about our upcoming events:
drexel.edu/performingarts

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Get tickets to upcoming concerts at
drexelperformingarts.com



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