

The Department of Performing Arts Presents...

FUSION BAND & ROCK ENSEMBLE

Tuesday, December 3rd
7:30 PM

Mandell Theater
3220 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 Fusion Band and Drexel Rock Ensemble would like to thank everyone in the Performing Arts office: Ellie Ebby, Hannah Burke, Cece Hill, Lauren Tracy, and our fearless leaders, Luke Abruzzo & Dr. Miriam Giguere.

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

The Drexel University Fusion Band is an advanced performance ensemble exploring a variety of musical styles and genres including Funk, Reggae, Salsa, Samba, Afro-Cuban, and World Music. Improvisation is an important aspect of the ensemble experience. Audition requirements include a demonstration of proficiency on one's instrument, knowledge of scales, chords and rhythms, the ability to read music, and a demonstrated ability to improvise.

Rock Ensemble is where students have the opportunity to gain experience rehearsing, arranging, organizing, recording, and ultimately performing songs in the rock/pop/ contemporary genres. The group is recorded several times each term by the Music Industry Program's Recording II class, and performs a concert at the end of each term. Rock Ensemble seeks dedicated vocalists, guitarists, bassists, drummers, and keyboardists of this style; accepting new participants by audition only.



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Program

The Drexel University Fusion Band

Lynn Riley, Director

Mean Greens ----- E. Harris
My Cherie Amour ----- S. Wonder
Tune 88 ----- J. Lorber
Blues on the Corner ----- M. Tyner
Master Blaster----- S. Wonder

Ensemble Members

Lynn Riley

Ensemble Director- Soprano and Alto Sax

Aleko Nicolacakis
Trumpet

Rodrigo Galavis
Guitar

Kaylee Wilson
Trumpet

Kenneth Blake
Keys

Alex Weidman
Trombone

Aden Dubin
Bass

Oliver Jakacki
Trombone

Carter Weiss
Percussion

Trace Cassidy
Trombone

Jett Mann
Drums and Percussion

Jake Larimer
Alto Sax

Terelle Dorceus
Drums and Percussion

Program

The Drexel University Rock Ensemble Greg Wright, Director

You Go Down Smooth ----- Lake Street Drive
Long Train Runnin' ----- The Doobie Brothers
Careless Whisper (as covered by Seether)----- George Michael &
Andrew Ridgeley
Canned Heat ----- Jamiroquai
Hotel California ----- The Eagles

Ensemble Members

Greg Wright

Ensemble Director - Guitar and Vocals

Jesse Beato

Electric Bass and Tenor Sax

Allie Bilger

Guitar

Aidan Cook

Drums

Ben Feurstein

Guitar

Shaun Hirsch

Drums

Dominic Panto

Guitar

Gabi Ruiz

Keyboards and Vocals

Victor Triolo

Vocals and Trombone

Dahlia Ufberg

Vocals

Rose Xu

Keyboard and Vocals

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*.

Lynn Riley

Fusion Band Director

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.



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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.

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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Drexel University Department of Performing Arts Staff

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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

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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drexelperformingarts.com



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