



The Department of Performing Arts Presents  
**Percussion Ensemble &  
Experimental Music  
Ensemble**

**Fall Concert**

**Sunday  
November 19, 2023**

**3:00 pm**

**Creese Student  
Center Lobby**

**3210 Chestnut St,  
Philadelphia, PA**

**Tickets are free,  
but registration  
is recommended.**



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!

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# Letter from the Department

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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**



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Music

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# Upcoming Performing Arts Events

## **FUSION BAND AND ROCK ENSEMBLE**

December 5, 2023 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

## **CHAMBER STRINGS**

December 5, 2023 | 7:30 PM | Main Auditorium

## **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

Learn more about our upcoming events:

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



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Performing Arts

*Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design*



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# Acknowledgements

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The Drexel University Percussion Ensemble & The Drexel University Experimental Ensemble would like to thank Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts and Design's Dean Jason Schupbach, and everyone in the Performing Arts office: Galen Blanzaco, LaShanetta Harris, Esteban Reina Soto, and our fearless leaders, Luke Abruzzo & Dr. Miriam Giguere. To perform music and experience music live is a human necessity and we are thankful for the opportunity.

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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 scan the QR code.



[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 Percussion Ensemble**

**Mark Beecher, Director**

"Sterling" -----	Blue Devils Drum Corps Warm-Up
"Legend of the One Eyed Sailor" -----	Chuck Mangione
"Blue Monk" -----	Thelonius Monk
"Oye Como Va" -----	Tito Puente
"Come Together" -----	The Beatles (Lennon-McCartney)
"Mallet Quartet" -----	Steve Reich
"Drop in the Buckets" -----	Mark Beecher
"Afro Blue" -----	Mongo Santamaría

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## **Ensemble Members**

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**Mark Beecher**

*Ensemble Director*

*Student Percussionists*

**Jack Baranoski**

**Mia Nagy**

**Kirsten Benes**

**Anthea Nocito**

**Caleb Bergman**

**Tyler Romeo**

**David Do**

**Cecily Rood**

**Kayla Kaepfel**

**Ezra Smith-Pohl**

**Benjamin Muller**

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# Program

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## **The Drexel University Experimental Music Ensemble** **Christopher Farrell, Director**

The Experimental Ensemble is excited to present a series of original improvisational scores, Aleatoric Music, Sonic Explorations, Oblique Strategies, and modern interpretations of some jazz classics. Audience participation is encouraged!

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## **Ensemble Members**

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**Christopher Farrell**

*Ensemble Director*

**Zachary Beaver**

*Bass and Effects*

**Claire Brown**

*Guitar, Laptop, Effects*

**Monica Buzzanca**

*Trumpet*

**Colin Keenan**

*Drums, Electronics, and*

*Loops*

**Kai Macedo**

*Trombone and Keyboards*

**Jett Mann**

*Theramin and Keyboard*

*Sample Pack*

**Kasta Marigna**

*Bass*

**Pat McKeown**

*Bass, Guitar, Effects*

**Jeremy Wells**

*Guitar and Effects*

# Mark Beecher

## Percussion Ensemble Director



Mark Beecher, has over 30 years of experience, performing and teaching worldwide. Mark attended Widener University, where he performed & toured with their Jazz Ensemble, directed by Woody Herman alumnus, John Vanore. Mark studied with Latin percussion masters Frankie Malabe and Jose Luis 'Changuito' Quintana, and also with 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 multi-GRAMMY Winners – Shania Twain, The Chieftains, Peter Erskine, and GRAMMY Nominees – Kathy Sledge of Sister Sledge, John Beasley, & Elio Villafranca. Mark has entertained such luminaries as The Rolling Stones, Queen Elizabeth, President Clinton, President Valery Giscard d'Estang of France, and King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden.

He has recorded over 30 albums with a variety of artists, along with his drum tracks being included on an album in the Billboard Top 10; his creative work has been featured on 2 GRAMMY-Winning, and 3 Nominated Albums. Mark is a voting member of the GRAMMYs (Recording Academy), and is a Spotify Verified Artist, with a number of his own albums available for streaming. Mark has 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.



# Chris 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.

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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 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://drexel.edu/PerformingArts)**



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To learn more, visit <https://drexel.edu/performingarts/about/make-a-gift/>

# Connect with us!

[www.drexel.edu/performingarts](http://www.drexel.edu/performingarts)



Drexel University  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PERFORMING ARTS

**DANCE  
THEATRE  
MUSIC**



DREXEL UNIVERSITY  
Performing Arts  
*Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design*



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