

The Department of Performing Arts Presents...

# Drexel University Symphony Orchestra

*Winter Concert*

## Symphonies Rock II: Winter Reset

Overture to *Candide* *Leonard BERNSTEIN*

Concerto for Viola in C Minor *J.C. BACH*

Samantha Gedeon, DUSO Principal Violist

Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88 *Antonin DVORAK*

**Friday March 15, 2024**

**7:30 PM**

**Main Auditorium in Main Building  
3141 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA**



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Music

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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

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# Letter from the Department

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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**



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# Upcoming Performing Arts Events

## **NEW WORKS FESTIVAL 2024**

March 15, 2024 | 7:00 PM | URBN Annex Black Box Theater

March 16, 2024 | 7:00 PM | URBN Annex Black Box Theater

## **ALL COLLEGE CHOIR AND CHAMBER BRASS AND WINDS**

March 16, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Main Auditorium

## **MEDITERRANEAN ENSEMBLE**

March 16, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

## **UNIVERSITY CHORUS AND CHAMBER SINGERS**

March 17, 2024 | 1:00 PM | Great Court in Main Building

## **CONCERT BAND**

March 17, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Mandell Theater

Learn more about our upcoming events:  
[drexel.edu/performingarts](https://drexel.edu/performingarts)



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mandell **PRESENTS**

# Mumu Fresh

Thu Apr 18 | 7:00 PM  
Mandell Theater

Reserve Free Tickets @DrexelPerformingArts.com



Preshow Performances by **Gavin Clarke** and **The Bul Bey**  
5:45 PM Doors | 6:15 PM Performance | Mandell Lobby



Drexel Climate & Sustainability and Music Industry Program Present

## ANTHEMS

FOR THE

## ANTHROPOCENE

# a climate change songwriting contest

Featuring an Exclusive Songwriting Workshop  
with Rising Hip-Hop Star Mumu Fresh

Register to participate through **March 27!**

- Mon Apr 1 | 6:00 PM** Contest Launch and Workshop with Mumu Fresh
- Fri Apr 12 | 9:00 AM** Deadline for song submissions
- Apr 13-18** Adjudication by Judges Panel
- Apr 16-18** Drexel People's Choice voting
- Thu Apr 18 | 7:00 PM** Mandell Presents Mumu Fresh | Mandell Theater
- Fri Apr 19 | 7:00 PM** Awards Ceremony & Celebration | Mandell Theater

\$2,000  
Prize Pool +  
Other Prizes

All Drexel graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to participate



info & registration  
[drexel.edu/sustainability](https://drexel.edu/sustainability)

Learn more about Mandell Presents:  
[drexel.edu/performingarts/mandell-presents](https://drexel.edu/performingarts/mandell-presents)

# MANDELL 50

1973-2023

A yearlong celebration of the first 50 years of The Mandell Theater, the flagship venue for Performing Arts at Drexel University, dedicated on November 10, 1973.

The Arts were essential to A.J. Drexel's vision for higher education —forming one of the three pillars of his education model to train students for the workforce—and still thrive here at the institution he founded. The Music, Theatre, and Dance programs at Drexel intersect with curriculum, community, and student life, providing unique leadership and learning experiences. Drexel's Performing Arts venues are important places to learn, practice, perform, and connect. The Mandell itself is an artistic home, a proving ground, and a cornerstone of the Drexel community. Cheers to 50 years, and to a lively future for the performing arts!

Celebrate with us!

## **Drexel Concert Band**

**Fri Jun 7 | 6:30 PM Reception | 7:30 Concert**

Drexel Music Program presents the Concert Band's Spring Concert: Perspectives—What We Hold Most Dear. Join DUCB for a program full of affirmation of who we are as artists and musicians. Guest artists Staff Sgt. Bradley Loudis, Victor Pablo Garcia Gaetan, and Sean Bailey will join in the program featuring multiple Philadelphia Premieres of new music.

Pre-performance reception at 6:30 PM

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# Acknowledgements

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I would like to thank the diligence and persistence of all DUSO members as the orchestra has rebuilt and revived post-pandemic. Also, sincere thank yous go to Performing Arts Department Head, Dr. Miriam Giguere, Music Program Director, Luke Abruzzo, Performing Arts Department Assistant, Galen Blanzaco, Department Administrator, LaShanetta Harris, and Performing Arts Department Graduate Assistant, Esteban Reina Soto for their continuous support.

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## About the Ensemble

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The Drexel University Symphony Orchestra is comprised of undergraduate and graduate students from all colleges within the University. Majors represented include engineering, nursing, fashion design, music industry, physics and TV production. Admission is by audition. Anyone interested in auditioning for DUSO should contact Conductor and Music Director Rosalind Erwin: [rme49@drexel.edu](mailto:rme49@drexel.edu)



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# Program

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## The Drexel University Symphony Orchestra

Rosalind Erwin, Conductor and Music Director

**Leonard BERNSTEIN**

Overture to *Candide*

**J.C. BACH**

Concerto for Viola in C Minor  
I. Allegro

Samantha Gedeon, viola  
Winner, 2024 DUSO Solo  
Competition

**\*\*\*Intermission\*\*\***

**Antonin DVORAK**

Symphony No. 8 in G major, Op. 88

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Adagio
- III. Allegretto grazioso
- IV. Allegro ma non troppo



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# Ensemble Members

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## Rosalind Erwin

Conductor and Music Director

### Violin I

(^ Rotating Concertmaster)

Leeia Stroh ^

Hailey Mak ^

Daniel Oh ^

Anne Marie Strader ^

Amanda Chao

Sofia Arastu

Donovan Dolan

Maria Dierkes

Isaac Cotnoir

Augie Kelliher

Parker Nix

Kristin Pisano

### Violin II

Grace Fazzolari, Principal

George Cao

Maya Gonzales

Kenzi Neighbors

Steven Zhao

Ione Shih

Olivia Hoxley

Anna LaCorte

Eva Kraus

Angelene Jimenez

Samantha Waldman

## Designations

+ Drexel graduate

# Conductors Assistant

\*\* Guest

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# Ensemble Members

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## Viola

Samantha Gedeon, Principal

Max Mega

Leo Li

Sophia Roscoe

Gia Angelo #

Frances Ebner

David Lane

Paige Hartshorne

## Violoncello

Gwendolyn Tom, Principal

Raina Brooks

Ryan Rose

Akari Hunte

Jacqueline Blizzard

Adrianna Criswell

## Violoncello (Cont'd)

Malkah Sheldon +

Madeline Johnson

Ava Scholl

## Double Bass

Vincent Angeline, Principal

Julian DeCicci

Andre Charpentier

Jesse Beato

Kasta Marigna

## Flute/Piccolo

Viviane Ho

Dane Gentles

Emma Cintron

## Designations

+ Drexel graduate

# Conductors Assistant

\*\* Guest

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# Ensemble Members

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## Oboe/English horn

Abigail Holmberg

Nicole Lam

## Horn (Cont'd)

Shayna Lord

Cruz Maria Carreiro

Kent Masten

## Clarinet/Bass clarinet

Kieran Van Sant +

Katherine Wolfe

Ellie Davis

Linnea Krall

Thomas Cope (Bass clarinet)

## Trumpet

Jacob Stratton

Mason Vetter

Leonard Meirson +

Brandon Stern

## Bassoon

Julienne Cormier +

Colleen Hood \*\*

## Trombone

Micah Miles

Lance Steiner

## Horn

Evan Thalheimer

## Bass Trombone

Marius Cobani

## Designations

+ Drexel graduate

# Conductors Assistant

\*\* Guest

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# Ensemble Members

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## Tuba

Jordan Finamore

## Harp

Rebecca Simpson\*\*

## Timpani/Percussion

Ezra Smith-Pohl

Mark Fazzolari

Alex Craig

Rafi Sanchez

Zach Strickland \*\*

## Designations

+ Drexel graduate

# Conductors Assistant

\*\* Guest



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# Rosalind Erwin

## DUSO Conductor and Music Director

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A flexible, creative and highly accomplished conductor, Rosalind Erwin is welcome on podiums both in the USA and abroad. Erwin received her Bachelor's Degree in Performance from the New School of Music in Philadelphia

and her Masters in Performance from Esther Boyer College of Music at Temple University where she studied with Anthony Gigliotti, Principal Clarinet of the Philadelphia Orchestra and was also appointed Resident Conductor of the Composition Department. Conducting mentors have included Riccardo Muti, David Zinnman, Joseph Barone and William Smith. Professional guest conducting engagements have included orchestras in Europe as well as throughout the United States,. Erwin has conducted numerous MEA All-State, Regional and District Festival Orchestras in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In 2013 Erwin was hired by Drexel University to create what

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# Rosalind Erwin

## DUSO Conductor and Music Director

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is now the Drexel University Symphony Orchestra, and in 2014, Erwin was named Director and Conductor/ Artistic Staff of the Philadelphia Young Artists Orchestra, one of three orchestra supported by the PYO Music Institute. Erwin has taught Advanced Conducting at Temple University and currently offers a highly acclaimed Introduction to Conducting course for the PYO Music Institute. Last August, Erwin conducted the Orvieto Festival of Strings Chamber Orchestra, Orvieto, Italy, in a performance of Antonio Vivaldi's *Le Quattro Stagioni* (Four Seasons) with Rumanian violinist Lenuta Ciulei.



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# Samantha Gedeon

## DUSO principal violist and Winner of the 2024 DUSO Solo Competition

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Samantha Gedeon has been honored to serve as the principal violist of the Drexel University Symphony Orchestra since March 2021.

She started playing the viola at 6 years old through the

Intensive Community Program of the Boston youth Symphony Orchestras studying under Joan Ellersick. Through her 10 years in the program, Ms. Gedeon has performed in various orchestras and chamber groups including the SHEA Quartet. Through this experience, she found her voice through music, helping express herself in a way other than words.

As part of the Brockton High School Music Department, Ms. Gedeon served as lead trumpet in the jazz, concert, and marching bands. She also participated in the Fine Arts Department's musical pit and jazz band on bass guitar.

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# **Samantha Gedeon**

## **DUSO principal violist and Winner of the 2024 DUSO Solo Competition**

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This March, Ms. Gedeon will complete her studies at Drexel University's LeBow College of Business earning a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Economics, Business, and Organizations with minors in Finance and Business Consulting. She enjoys being involved in LeBow community and is proud to be the President of the Dean's Student Advisory Board and Co-Chair of LeBow BRIDGE. Although she has enjoyed her time here in Philadelphia, she will be starting her post graduate career at Accenture as a Technology Consultant in their Atlanta office.

Ms. Gedeon thanks all of her friends and family, most importantly her parents, for continuing to support her music and professional journeys throughout the years.



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# Drexel University Department of Performing Arts Staff

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## Interim Department Head

Brent White

## Program Directors

Luke Abruzzo

Music

Nick Anselmo

Theatre

Jennifer Morley (Interim)

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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To learn more, visit [drexel.edu/performingarts](https://drexel.edu/performingarts)

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Get tickets to upcoming concerts at [drexelperformingarts.com](https://drexelperformingarts.com)



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