

The Department of Performing Arts Presents...

Drexel University Gospel Choir **Winter Concert: He's Still God**

A celebration of the Gospel Choir's 46th Anniversary

Friday, March 15, 2024
7:00 PM

Mandell Theater
3220 Chestnut St,
Philadelphia, PA



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Music

Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design

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

Letter from the Department

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



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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

Learn more about Mandell Presents:

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

Acknowledgements

The Drexel University Gospel Choir would like to thank Dr. Miriam Giguere, Luke Abruzzo and Westphal College of Media Arts and Design Staff and Faculty, Caroline Leipf, Christopher Totoro, and Mandell Theater Staff, Denise Marie Snow - Program Director for Bridges, Drexel University Gospel Choir Alumni, Rev. Gregory Ross - Senior Pastor and Rev. Beatrice E. Ross, First Lady, Vashti T. Gorham, Founder, Drexel University Department of Alumni Relations, Rev. Brian Musser - Campus minister, DUBAC Program

About the Ensemble

The Gospel Choir is an open group that performs contemporary gospel music. No audition is required and all interested singers are encouraged to join. The group performs frequently in churches throughout the Delaware Valley.



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Music

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Program

The Drexel University Gospel Choir **Ross Browne, Director**

Introduction

Prayer

Portia Taylor

Welcome

Sam Armoo

History

**Lois Ayitevie, Grayson Owens, Janyra Santos,
Kwabena Budu, and Karena Escalante**

Song Selections

Enter his Gates

I will bless the Lord

Just a little Prayer and Faith

Praise Jehovah

We Shall Overcome

Just as I am

He's God

Praise the Lord

Oh What Love



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Music

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Ensemble Members

Ross Browne
Ensemble Director

Soprano

Karena Escalante
Natalie Cleri
Lois Ayitevie
Rachael Peterkin
Zedan Edward
Promise Nkhono

Alto

Jenna Washington
Tekuam Kassa
Raina Brooks
Tamia Chuderski
Viza Freeman
Maame Adwoa Ocron
Me'Aira Nuni
Charlotte Bell
Portia Taylor
Janyra Santos

Alto (Con't)

Alyssa Rose Ferdinand

Tenor

Jamal Stewart
Trevor Canfor-Dumas
Sam Armoo
Ofoegbu Henry
R. James Worthy
Brandon Brooks

Bass

Kwabena A. Budu
Trevor Canfor-Dumas
Grayson Owens

Praise Dancer

Damesha Tull

Drexel University Department of Performing Arts Staff

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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Performing Arts

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To learn more, visit drexel.edu/performingarts

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Get tickets to upcoming concerts at drexelperformingarts.com



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