

The Department of Performing
Arts Presents...

Percussion Ensemble + Experimental Music Ensemble Winter Concert



Sunday, March 10, 2024
3:00 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

FUSION BAND AND ROCK ENSEMBLE

March 12, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

CHAMBER STRINGS

March 12, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Main Auditorium

JAZZ ORCHESTRA

March 14, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Mandell Theater

GOSPEL CHOIR

March 15, 2024 | 7:00 PM | Mandell Theater

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

DREXEL UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

March 15, 2024 | 7:30 PM | Main Auditorium

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



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 Percussion Ensemble would like to Thank: Christopher Farrell and his great 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 Department Administrator – LaShanetta Harris; Department Assistant – Galen Blanzaco; Department of Performing Arts Graduate Assistant – Esteban Reina Soto.

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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About The Ensembles

The Drexel Percussion Ensemble brings together the ancient with the modern in percussion instrument applications. Students will learn to play traditional hand percussion instruments such as the tabla and dumbek, along with orchestral mallet instruments such as the marimba and vibraphone. Students will also incorporate modern percussion technology with Drexel's turntable and drum machine rig. The ensemble will also work on compositions and productions of its own creation.

The Drexel University Experimental Music Ensemble focuses on music making through improvisational structures, sonic explorations, modal music, irregular time signatures, and aleatoric (chance) processes.



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Program

The Drexel University Percussion Ensemble

Mark Beecher, Director

Sterling ----- Blue Devils Drum Corps
Oye Como Va ----- Tito Puente
Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time ----- Koji Kondo
Come Together ----- The Beatles (Lennon - McCartney)
Mallet Quartet ----- Steve Reich
Drop in the Buckets ----- Mark Beecher
Afro Blue - combined performance with ----- Mongo Santamaria
Experimental Music Ensemble

Ensemble Members

Mark Beecher

Ensemble Director

Student Percussionists

Jack Baranoski

Kirsten Benes

Caleb Bergman

David Do

Kayla Faustner

Harang Kang

Benjamin Muller

Mia Nagy

Anthony Nocito

Tyler Romeo

Ezra Smith-Pohl



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Program

The Drexel University Experimental Music Ensemble

Christopher Farrell, Music Director

Stay on It ----- Julius Eastman

Deconstructed Clapping Music ----- Inspired by Steve Reich

Original Improvisational Score ----- Ensemble Students

Ensemble Members

Christopher Farrell

Ensemble Director

Claire Brown

Guitar, Laptop, and Effects

Kasta Marigna

Bass

Monica Buzzanca

Trumpet

Pat McKeown

Bass, Guitar, and Effects

Colin Keenan

Drums, Electronics, and Loops

Jeremy Wells

Guitar and Effects

Elliot Levin

Flute and Saxophone

Victor Nica

Guitar

Kai Macedo

Trombone and Keyboards

Mya Timmermann

Synth and Effects



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Mark Beecher

Percussion Ensemble Director



Mark Beecher is an award-winning Drummer & Percussionist, with over 35 years of experience, performing and teaching worldwide. Mark attended Widener University, where he performed & toured on Drum Kit, with Jazz

Ensemble, directed by Woody Herman alumnus, John Vanore. Mark first studied Drumming with 4-time National Snare Drum Champion, William H. Reamer, who became his lifelong mentor. Later, Mark went on to study with such Latin percussion masters as Frankie Malabe (at Drummer's Collective in NYC) and Jose Luis 'Changuito' Quintana from the renowned Cuban band, Los Van Van. He also had the privilege of studying with African drumming master Oscar Sulley, Eastern Indian drumming master T.N. Bala, and Frank Zappa drummers, Chad Wackerman & Chester Thompson (also with Genesis & Phil Collins).

Mark has recorded over 40 albums with a variety of artists, in addition to the release of his own albums as a Spotify Verified Artist. He has performed on stage with such GRAMMY-Winning & Nominated artists as Shania Twain, the Chieftains, Kathy Sledge (of Sister Sledge), Peter Erskine, Elio Villafranca and Bakithi Kumalo.

Mark Beecher

Percussion Ensemble Director

Mark continues to perform with members of the Philadelphia Orchestra, Philly Pops, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic, the U.S. Army Band, U.S.

Marine Band, U.S. Air Force Band, and has entertained such dignitaries as, rock and roll legends, The Rolling Stones, Queen Elizabeth, President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France, King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden, Afghanistan President, Hamid Karzai and most recently, the surviving daughter of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy - Kathleen Kennedy Townsend.

Mark Beecher is a Voting Member of the Recording Academy (GRAMMYs), and his creative work has been featured on 2 GRAMMY Award-Winning Albums, and 3 GRAMMY Nominated Albums.

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.

As a drum & percussion instructor with over 30 years of experience, Mark has taught award-winning high school bands and drum corps, including the Independence Fife &

Mark Beecher

Percussion Ensemble Director

Drum Corps, Valley Forge Military Academy Field Music and the Washington Memorial Pipe Band (of which he is the current Drum Sgt) and has conducted a number of Drumming & Percussion clinics and seminars with the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association (PMEA).

He 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.



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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)

Chris Farrell

Experimental Music Ensemble Director

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

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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