

20/21

drexel.edu/performingarts

PERFORMING ARTS

drexel university

Theatre
Music
Dance



DREXEL UNIVERSITY
Westphal
College of Media Arts & Design
Department of Performing Arts



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1. Black Box Theater

URBN Center Annex
3401 Filbert St.

2. Chestnut Square Plaza

3220 Chestnut St.

3. Main Building

3141 Chestnut St.
Main Auditorium
Great Court
418 Main Dance Studio

4. City View Room

3250 Chestnut St.
(Entrance on Chestnut St.)
6th Floor MacAlister Hall

5. Mandell Theater Forman Dance Studio

3220 Chestnut St.

ACCOMMODATIONS & SERVICES

The Mandell Theater, the Black Box Theater and the Main Auditorium are wheelchair accessible.

The Mandell Theater offers Assisted Listening Devices (ALDs) for those with hearing impairments.

Requests for accommodations and services due to a disability should be made to the Office of Disability Resources (ODR). The ODR can be reached at 215.895.1401 (V); 215.895.2299 (TTY), or disability@drexel.edu.

The ALDs are available for checkout at the Mandell Theater Box Office.

PARKING

Metered parking is available on many of the surrounding streets. There are several fee-based parking lots nearby:

- Drexel Garage at 34th & Ludlow Streets
- Five Star parking at 31st Street & JFK Blvd
- 31st & Market Streets

DISCOUNTS

Student and group discounts are available. All students are eligible to receive a student rate. For more information regarding group discounts, please call 215.895.1275.

LOCATIONS

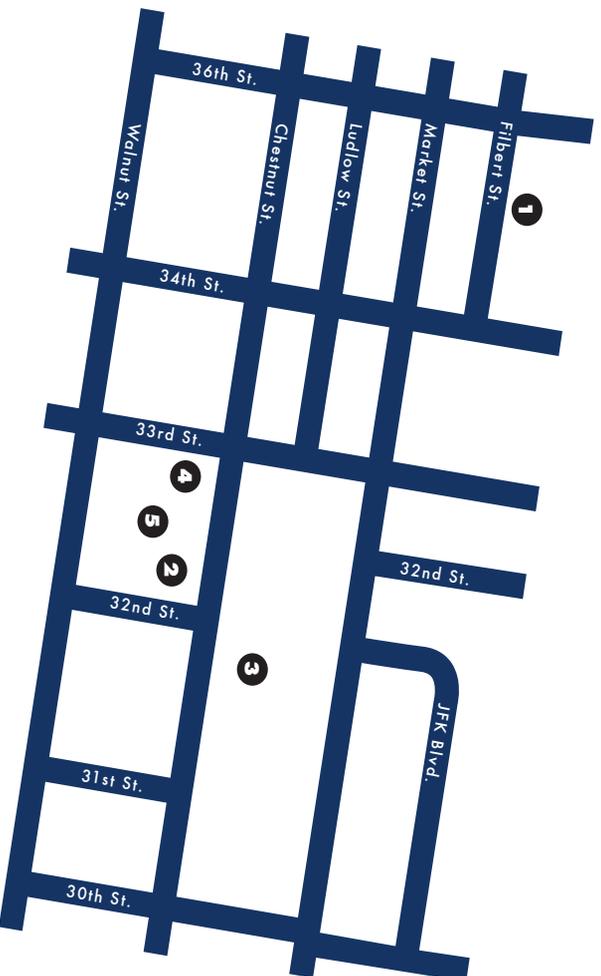
Mandell Theater and the Ellen Forman Dance Studio are located at 3220 Chestnut Street.

Main Auditorium and the Great Court are located in Main Building at 3141 Chestnut Street.

The 418 Dance Studio is located in Main Building at 3141 Chestnut Street.

The City View Room is located on the sixth floor of MacAlister Hall at 3250 Chestnut Street.

The Black Box Theater is located in the URBN Center Annex at 3401 Filbert Street (behind URBN Center).



ENSEMBLES

Dance Ensemble
Olive Prince
215-895-2451
okp23@drexel.edu

FreshDance Ensemble
Olive Prince
215-895-2451
okp23@drexel.edu

Youth Performance Exchange Touring Dance Ensemble
Ama Gora
215-895-2451
ag3866@drexel.edu

Co-Op Theatre Company
Nick Anselmo
215-895-1920
nma28@drexel.edu

Technical Theatre Ensemble
Paul Jerue
215-571-4243
prj36@drexel.edu

Late Night Series Open Mic
Nick Anselmo
215-895-1920
nma28@drexel.edu

Drexel Players
Nick Anselmo
215-895-1920
nma28@drexel.edu

Concert Band
Patrick Bailey
215-895-2451
pbailey@drexel.edu

Pep Band
Chris Parks
215-895-2451
ckp48@drexel.edu

Jazz Orchestra
Brent White
215-895-2451
bw352@drexel.edu

JazzTet
Brent White
215-895-2451
bw352@drexel.edu

Drexel University Symphony Orchestra
Rosalind Erwin
215-895-2451
rme49@drexel.edu

Chamber Music: Strings
Karen Banos
215-895-2451
kmb53@drexel.edu

Chamber Music: Brass and Winds
Dr. Eve Friedman
215-895-2451
eaf79@drexel.edu

Percussion Ensemble
Mark Beecher
215-895-2451
meb26@drexel.edu

Fusion Band
Lynn Riley
215-895-2451
mcr27@drexel.edu

Rock Ensemble
Greg Wright
215-895-2451
gjlw28@drexel.edu

Mediterranean Ensemble
Bruce Kaminsky
215-895-2451
bk46@drexel.edu

University Chorus
Dr. Steven Powell
215-895-4912
powellss@drexel.edu

Chamber Singers
Dr. Steven Powell
215-895-4912
powellss@drexel.edu

Naturally Sharp (Vocal Jazz Ensemble)
Dr. Steven Powell
215-895-4912
powellss@drexel.edu

All-College Choir
Scott Bacon
215-895-4915
sdb33@drexel.edu

Drexel University Gospel Choir
Rev. Perry Brisbon
215-895-2451
gospelchoir@drexel.edu

Department of Performing Arts General Inquiries
215-895-2451
performingarts@drexel.edu

WELCOME to the Department of Performing Arts at Drexel University. We are proud to be an active department; home to sixteen musical ensembles, three dance companies, the Co-Op Theatre Company, and the URBN Annex Black Box and Mandell Theaters. Every term hundreds of students from majors all across the university take classes and lessons in music, theatre and dance through our department.

DID YOU KNOW?

All of our ensembles are run by professional faculty who are excited to educate students in both the traditions and new directions of their fields.

You can participate in large and small performing ensembles in all three disciplines (music, theatre and dance) for credit.

We offer scholarships to advanced performers and stage technicians every year. All you need to do is contact the ensemble director for an audition!

We offer one major and eight minors in the Performing Arts.

Please read further in this brochure to find out how you can get involved in the Performing Arts at Drexel, on stage, back stage, or in the audience.

Miriam Giguere, PhD
Department Head

PERFORMING ARTS



Lindsay Browning

DANCE MAJOR

The Dance major combines rigorous academic coursework with extensive stage and studio dance experiences. We feature an outstanding faculty of noted dancers and choreographers, and the Drexel Dance program is quite different from others in our emphasis on preparing our graduates for a variety of careers in dance and related subjects. We achieve this through Drexel's outstanding co-op program which has all students work for six months in a job related to dance, extensive community-based learning opportunities and the chance to participate in two professional-caliber student companies. Our program uniquely offers the option of four distinct tracks to career paths that combine an active engagement in dance with a range of occupations. The four tracks are dance/movement therapy, dance in education, physical therapy, and a custom design track (typically a unique approach to choreography and performance).



Charles Shan Cerrone / Cerrone Photo

MINORS

Dance

The 24-credit minor in Dance offers students an opportunity to explore dance in the studio through technique classes, and in the classroom through academic classes in dance. Participation in the dance ensemble class is required, although performance with the ensemble is not. There is no audition for the Dance minor program.

Music

The minor in Music requires 26 credits, including work in music theory, history, applied music (class or private lessons), ensemble performance, and 9 credits of music electives.

Music Theory and Composition

The minor in Music Theory and Composition is aimed at people who are writing their own music or who would like to begin doing so. Students will take courses in music theory, arranging, composition, and digital composition, and end with a portfolio of several completed pieces.

Music Performance

The minor in Music Performance requires two years of private study with our artist faculty, culminating in a recital. The Music Program will provide support for the recital venue and accompanist.

Jazz and African-American Music

The minor in Jazz and African-American Music takes advantage of our faculty expertise in those areas. This minor can include course work in jazz history, African-American music, jazz theory, private study in jazz performance, and ensemble work in several ensembles devoted to jazz.

Performing Arts

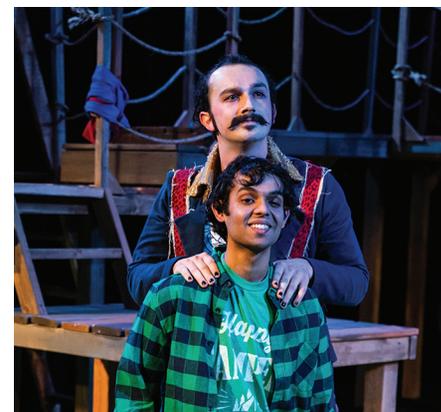
Designed for the student who wishes to explore the fields of dance, music and theatre rather than specialize in one area, the minor in Performing Arts provides motivated students the opportunity to learn about all three areas while performing for two years in one or more of the department's performing groups.

Somatics

An understanding of movement and body language has become increasingly important across many fields including communication, corporate training, movement therapy, education, performance, rehabilitation, sport and fitness. Physical health, clear communication, and effective leadership all rely on an awareness of how we carry our bodies through our lives. The Somatics minor provides an in-depth study of the body, building from an understanding of its functional/structural basis, to its patterns and habits. We focus on how to interpret, analyze, and articulate somatic concepts and develop strategies for application.

Theatre

The Theatre minor is for any student interested in applying their talents to all areas of theatre and learning more about how we collaborate to tell great stories. Comprised of 24 credits, the minor offers coursework in fundamental theatre operations, as well as opportunities to participate in productions as performers, technicians, or administrators. There are several levels of engagement from Director's Lab to Mainstage production. Through the work and study of theatre, students learn more about culture and society and gain a greater understanding of the human condition, skills that will be useful in every area of life and career where communication is important.



Will McKeown—NewWaveMediaCo.com

COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING

Drexel University's Department of Performing Arts has a range of partnerships across Philadelphia. Music, theatre and dance programs taught by Drexel students, faculty, and alumni extend the physical, intellectual, creative and therapeutic aspects of the performing arts to the community. Partnerships include:



DANCE

Youth Performance Exchange Touring Ensemble

The Youth Performance Exchange Touring Ensemble, comprised of dance students at Drexel University, offers free assembly programs to elementary school students across Philadelphia. Ensemble members perform for the students, lead a series of interactive movement games, and facilitate a shared conversation for the young movers.

The Touring Ensemble models its curriculum after the South Street Dance Company's Young Audiences Ensemble created by Ellen Forman.

Youth Performance Exchange Residency Project

The Youth Performance Exchange Residency Project brings small groups of Drexel dancers to a middle or high school to develop choreography with students throughout the city. This weekly collaborative process fosters artistic development and culminates with a finished dance presented on Drexel's campus in the Youth Performance Exchange Matinee.

Wheelchair Dance

Wheelchair Dance: HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy is a weekly project conducted in collaboration with dance/movement therapist Rachel Federman-Morales. The program partners dancers from Drexel with teenagers in wheelchairs with cerebral palsy for a yearlong process to create dances that will be presented at HMS and the Youth Performance Exchange Matinee.

Matinee Performance

The Youth Performance Exchange Matinee Performance showcases all of the diverse and transformative dance collaborations created through the community partnerships with Drexel Dance. Presented in the Mandell Theater, the students from the Residency Project and Wheelchair Dance perform for an audience of Philadelphia school students.

Dance at the Dornsife Center

The Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships places Drexel's resources and expertise within easy reach of local residents, helping to sustain a stronger neighborhood. <http://drexel.edu/dornsifecenter>

Youth, Adults and Seniors in Mantua and Powelton Village participate in three 8-week sessions of dance (fall, winter, spring). Classes include hip-hop, ballet, choreography, jazz, creative movement and senior dance fitness. Drexel students and alumni teach and assist the classes to contribute to the rich community in their shared neighborhood.

THEATRE

Mantua Theater Project

The Mantua Theater Project addresses the needs of the communities of Mantua, Powelton Village and the surrounding neighborhoods with activities that engage youth through positive, self-affirming experiences of success in theater arts. In a month of classes the children are instructed in the basic tenets of playwriting and then paired with a professional artist who collaborates and mentors them through the process of writing a 10-minute play. The plays then receive a full production using professional actors and directors from the Philadelphia community and is offered free of charge to the public so all can celebrate the achievements of these amazing young people.

MUSIC

Music at the Dornsife Center

The Drexel University Music Program partners with the Dornsife Center for Community Partnerships to offer free after-school music classes to youth and seniors in the Powelton and Mantua communities. Classes are held each week and are taught by Drexel music students, under the direction of Drexel faculty member Lynn Riley. Classes are currently being offered in guitar, voice, percussion, piano, and bass.

THE AT RE



THE THEATRE PROGRAM is open to all Drexel students interested in performance as well as the technical and administrative aspects of theatre production. The Theatre Program at Drexel combines academics and practical application to empower students to discover and develop their own artistic voice and style. We offer practical courses in Performance, Administration, and Technical Theatre so students are able to explore areas of interest, develop their skills, and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of theatre.

In an effort to provide more practical experiences for our students we launched The Co-Op Theatre Company, a resident theatre company where our talented students take on leadership positions in all areas of production and administration. We produce a Mainstage show each quarter, including two Co-Op Theatre Company productions and one piece as part of our unique Barrymore Award-winning Mandell Professionals in Residence Project (MPiRP) which offers students an opportunity to work alongside professional actors, directors and designers. Over the years, Drexel has partnered with amazing Philadelphia companies, including a collaboration with The Riot Group that featured fourteen students who created an original play that was performed in our Mandell Theater and then at the Abingdon Theater Off-Broadway in New York City.

If you want to be involved but are concerned about a big commitment we offer more intimate projects like a Musical Theatre Cabaret, Improv Show, Director's Lab, and the Annual NewWorks Festival. These are open to everyone and give students an opportunity to take on greater artistic challenges and focus on developing their talents. If you want to share those talents simply join us every Thursday night for The Late Night Series, our weekly open mic that features live music, poetry and comedy in a safe and supportive environment. Covid restrictions have limited our live presentations but we continue to produce these performances for the Co-Op Theatre Company YouTube channel. Be sure to check us out online.

Nick Anselmo
Theatre Program Director

Theatre has been an incredible escape for me. Thanks to the Co-op Theatre Company, I have years of relevant work experience applicable to my career in areas like project management, construction, and design. The amazing productions I have had the chance to work on have encouraged me to seek out more interdisciplinary opportunities and integrate the arts into my STEM education and career.

—Spencer Kociba, Architectural Engineering and Construction Management, Class of 2021



MUSIC

Luke Abruzzo
Music Program Director

THE MUSIC PROGRAM at Drexel University is an active non-major program consisting of nearly twelve hundred students each term engaged in our sixteen musical ensembles, courses, and private lessons. The program unites students from every college across the campus, brought together by an intrinsic love of music. These future scientists, engineers, designers, and business leaders learn to become not only better musicians, but also patrons, philanthropists, and conservators of musical art forms.

The mission of the Music Program is to cultivate the cultural literacy and understanding of its students as well as the greater University. The program also seeks to contribute to the cultural well-being of the greater Philadelphia area by offering high quality free student concerts that draw a discerning audience from both outside and inside the University community. The goal of the Music Program is to give its students the best possible musical opportunities during their college careers. We hope that they stay musically active and engaged in their life after college, whether as a patron, or as a professional or semi-professional musician. We aim to inspire them and round out their community and leadership skills through music, so they may emerge from Drexel as strong individuals, great citizens, and leaders in their respective fields.

We are proud to offer individual lessons, small and large ensemble experiences and outstanding performances in choral and instrumental music. Audience members are invited to come out and enjoy the musical variety of our performances, embracing music from throughout history and from all over the world.



The music program provided enjoyable and formative experiences through classes, lessons, and ensembles over the past five years. I was able to dive into the theoretical and practical aspects of music with a program that was cooperative with my other academic commitments.

—Christian D’Andrea, Biomedical Engineering, 2020

DANCE



Johanna Austin / Austin Art

Dance Ensemble is having a family with all different backgrounds, experiences and talents, but you all share the love of dance. No matter who you are you belong.

—Christina Strobel, Electrical Engineering, 2022

Sandra Parks
Dance Program Director

THE DANCE PROGRAM is the proud home of a Dance major, commercial Pilates studio and training program, community-based learning initiatives, and two professionally-run dance companies. Drexel's Dance Program presents dance concerts of the highest artistic standard, created by some of today's most sought-after local, national and international choreographers, including Rebecca Arends (Seán Curran Company), Lindsay Browning (Tangle Share Arts Collective), Clyde Evans (Chosen Dance Company), Daniel Mayo (BalletX), Olive Prince (Olive Prince Dance), Antonello Tudisco (Interno 5 Danza, Italy), Lauren Putty White (Putty Dance Project/PHILADANCO) and more! The Drexel Dance Program extends opportunities to learn about dance around the world through participation in our London Study Abroad and Beijing Dance Festival.

The Drexel Dance Ensemble and FreshDance (freshman only dance company) are professional caliber dance companies each presenting two fully produced concerts. Due to Covid-19, for 2020 - 2021, the Drexel Dance Ensemble and FreshDance will bring screen dance and virtual dance performances to our audience. Entrance into Drexel Dance Ensemble is by audition which is open to any dancer beyond their freshman year. Both companies present work of guest professionals, faculty, and selected student choreographers. If you have a passion for engaging younger audiences, you may want to participate in the Youth Performance Exchange, which sponsors the Touring Ensemble that performs assembly programs weekly at local elementary and middle schools.



Kaitlin Chow

In-person events are subject to change to virtual events due to Covid-19 related restrictions. Please check our website for up-to-date information before attending any live event.

<http://drexel.edu/performingarts/covid-19-events>

THEATRE EVENTS

*Drexel's Co-Op Theatre Company presents
The Mantua Theater Project's*

THE MASK PLAYS

Featuring plays written by the young playwrights from Mantua Theater Project & Guests.

Directed by Nick Anselmo

Join us for these insightful, whimsical, and touching stories featuring characters based on animals, inanimate objects, and forces of nature. You will love the creativity of these talented youth brought to life by our Co-Op Theatre Company artists. The Mantua Theater Project addresses the needs of youth with self-affirming activities where they can realize their self-worth and the diversity of their imagination, using theater arts to foster positive experiences of success.

Dates and Tickets:

Opening night will be a ticketed event featuring a discussion with Mantua Theater Project Executive Director Nick Anselmo followed by a first public streaming of the production. All pay-what-you-can donations for opening night will benefit the Mantua Theater Project for Community Programming.

Opening night TBD in November 2020

Tickets for opening night will be available at drexelperformingarts.com

*Drexel's Co-Op Theatre Company presents
Untitled 2021 Verbatim Theatre Project*

ESSENTIAL

Directed by Bill Fennelly

Co-Conceived by Bill Fennelly, David Lee White, and members of the Company

Essential is a documentary theater project that explores who and what became essential during the unprecedented quarantine of 2020. Company members conducted interviews with workers who were deemed essential during the quarantine and we share their stories with you through a series of monologues.

Dates and Tickets:

Opening Night will be a ticketed event featuring a discussion with Director Bill Fennelly and Co-Creator David Lee White followed by a first public streaming of the production. All pay-what-you-can donations for opening night will benefit Philadelphia's COVID-19 Response Fund supporting charities helping essential workers throughout the city.

Opening night TBD in March 2021

Tickets for opening night will be available at drexelperformingarts.com

Mandell Professionals in Residence Project (MPIRP) presents the world premiere adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's

JANE EYRE

Adapted by Jessica Bedford, Kathryn MacMillan, Charlotte Northeast and Meghan Winch

Directed by Kathryn MacMillan With Philadelphia Artists' Collective in residence

This inventive adaptation brings new life to the beloved novel. As the governess of gloomy Thornfield Hall, Jane Eyre encounters unsettling mysteries and the enigmatic master of the house, Mr. Rochester. Introverted but fiercely brave, Jane defies expectations of class and position by falling in love with her employer. But the painful secrets of Thornfield may make happiness impossible. *Jane Eyre* is a sweeping story of romance, independence, and the conquering spirit of a brave young woman.

Show Schedule

Previews April 28-29 @ 7:00 pm
Open April 30 @ 7:00 pm
May 1, 5-8 @ 7:00 pm
May 2 & 9 @ 2:00 pm

MANDELL THEATER

Tickets

General Admission \$30
Seniors \$25
PAC Pass \$20
Non-Drexel Students \$15
Drexel Student/Faculty/Staff/Industry \$10

Purchase Tickets Online at drexelperformingarts.com

MPIRP is made possible in part through a grant from the Samuel P. Mandell Foundation.

Follow us on social media!

Facebook: @TheatreProgramatDrexel

MUSIC EVENTS

Live performances have been suspended for the Fall term; however, recordings of music ensemble selections will be available for the public. Visit our website and follow us on social media for more information.

WINTER CONCERT SERIES

March 8-14, 2021

SPRING CONCERT SERIES

June 1-7, 2021

MADRIGAL DINNER

February 26-27, 2021, 7:30pm

The Drexel Chamber Singers and guest performers take you back in time for an evening of madrigals, chansons, lute songs, and lieds.

Purchase Tickets Online:

drexelperformingarts.com \$22

Price includes dinner

Great Court, Main Building

COFFEE & JAZZ

May 7-8, 2021, 8pm

Naturally Sharp, Drexel's vocal jazz ensemble, performs classic jazz at the top of MacAlister Hall with the Philadelphia skyline as their backdrop. Beginning at sunset, the group's annual end-of-year concert transports sold-out audiences to a place where "everything swings".

Admission: \$7 (includes coffee and dessert)

City View Room, MacAlister Hall

Follow us on social media!

Facebook: @DrexelMusicProgram

DANCE EVENTS

DANCE FILM CONCERT

Available Spring 2021

Dance Ensemble and FreshDance join forces for our first ever dance on video production. You can plan for work that is inventive, explorative, and passionate. Students will perform in works by guest choreographers Albert Quesada, Ali Willingham, Ellen Forman Award winner Gabrielle Revlock, and dance faculty Miriam Giguere and Sandra Parks. FreshDance students will work with dance faculty Valerie Ifill and Caroline O'Brien and alumni Alexandra Lodise and Kathryn Schweingruber. Choreographers will collaborate with internationally known video artists Jorge Cousineau, Tori Lawrence, and Brittany Fishel to create this exciting digital event. Choreography for the Camera!

Follow us on social media!

Facebook+Instagram: @DrexelDance

SITES OF DANCE

An outside festival of dance.

June 3, 4, 5 & 6 —6:30 pm—live dance & 8:30 pm film viewing.

Join us for an evening of immersive, site-specific dance that you will witness as you take a guided walk through Drexel's campus. Stay and watch our Dance Film Concert projected for viewing under the stars. Student driven choreography will be joined by Dance Ensemble Director Olive Prince, faculty member Jennifer Morley, and hip-hop artist Dinita Clark for a captivating performance experience.

\$10 general admission \$5 students w/ID

Purchase Tickets Online:

drexelperformingarts.com