

Drexel University

# Department of Performing Arts

2010–2011 Season Brochure



ANTOINETTE WESTPHAL  
COLLEGE OF MEDIA ARTS & DESIGN  
[www.drexel.edu/westphal](http://www.drexel.edu/westphal)



# Welcome

The Performing Arts department at Drexel is the vibrant home of our extensive programs in music, theatre, and dance. All Drexel students will find many opportunities to perform in one of our numerous musical ensembles, our student theatre company, or in our dance ensemble.

Each year, we offer students the chance to act with top-tier theatre companies, to dance under the direction of award-winning choreographers, and to study and play with some of the highest caliber musicians in our region. The Mandell Theater is a professional quality performance space that equals any theater to be found in Philadelphia.

Got stage fright? Then get involved behind the scenes with production management, lighting and sound, or creating sets and costumes.

This brochure provides information about each of our ensembles, and how to get involved or see a performance. As the curtain rises on another exciting Drexel Performing Arts season, we hope to see you on stage, behind the scenes, or in the audience.

# Music



Musicians will find that Drexel's Music Program offers the chance to perform in top-quality ensembles. Our performers come from every major and college, and our groups offer an exceptional range of diverse musical styles.

Instrumentalists have the opportunity to perform major repertoire at a high artistic level in the Concert Band, Drexel Orchestra, and Jazz Orchestra. University Chorus and its associated Chamber Singers and Vocal Jazz Ensemble provide singers the opportunity to perform great music in virtually every style.

We boast one of the area's top gospel choirs, and this year, we're launching a new All-College Choir. With an array of smaller ensembles—Fusion Band, Rock Ensemble, Mediterranean Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Jazztet, Saxtet, jazz combos, Pep Band, a Student/Faculty Brass Quintet—we have wonderful opportunities for students at advanced and intermediate levels that we hope you'll explore.

For more information about any of these groups, please contact:

**Dr. Myron (Mike) Moss**

Program Director  
mdm79@drexel.edu

# Theatre

The Theatre Program is open to all Drexel students interested in acting and the technical and administrative aspects of stagecraft. Each year we produce three Mainstage shows at the Mandell Theater, generally a mixture of comedy, drama, musicals, and classics.

One of these productions is co-produced with a top Philadelphia theatre company and students have the chance to act or work backstage alongside professionals. Past productions have been with *Pig Iron Theatre Company*, *New Paradise Laboratories*, *Commonwealth Classic Theatre Company*, *EgoPo Productions*, and *Azuka Theatre*, all part of our Mandell Professionals in Residence Project (MPiRP). Our MPiRP productions have garnered four Barrymore Award nominations, Philly's version of the TONYs, over the past four years.

Off the mainstage, we present smaller, more intimate productions as part of our *Director's Lab* series with students handling the direction and all aspects of the production—these shows are frequently written by students. Every Thursday night, The Late Night Series ([www.latenightseries.com](http://www.latenightseries.com)), our open mic night, is a great venue for students to present their own music, poetry, comedy, and much more.

For more information about any of these groups, please contact:

**Nick Anselmo**  
Program Director  
[nick.anselmo@drexel.edu](mailto:nick.anselmo@drexel.edu)  
or visit [www.drexelplayers.com](http://www.drexelplayers.com)



# Dance



Students will find many high-quality performance opportunities offered by the Dance Program at Drexel. *The Drexel Dance Ensemble* is a professional-caliber dance company presenting two fully produced concerts in the Mandell Theater each year.

Entrance into this company is open to all dancers beyond the freshmen year by audition. *FreshDance*, the freshmen year dance company, also performs twice yearly at the Mandell Theater. Both companies present the work of professional guest choreographers, faculty, and selected student choreographers.

If you are passionate about reaching younger audiences, you may want to participate in the *Youth Performance Exchange*, a touring ensemble that performs assembly programs weekly at local elementary and middle schools throughout the year.

For more information about any of these groups, please contact:

**Dr. Miriam Giguere**

Program Director

[danceprogram@drexel.edu](mailto:danceprogram@drexel.edu)

# Season Performances

## Fall



### DANCE LECTURE-DEMONSTRATION

THE BALLETS OF GEORGE BALANCHINE

Barbara Sandanato, The Pennsylvania Ballet's first prima ballerina and student of legendary Russian choreographer and director of the New York City Ballet, George Balanchine, will give a talk on her many years working with the great and pioneering choreographer. Ms. Sandanato's students will demonstrate selected repertory originally choreographed by Balanchine.

*Oct. 14 7:00PM*

### RENT

BY JONATHAN LARSON WITH  
11<sup>TH</sup> HOUR THEATRE COMPANY IN RESIDENCE

This Pulitzer Prize-winning "landmark rock opera" by Jonathan Larson changed musicals forever. Bohemian friends struggle with love, loss, and mortality amid the AIDS epidemic while discovering there is "No Day but Today" to make the most of every moment. Drexel welcomes three-time Barrymore Award-winning 11<sup>TH</sup> Hour Theatre Company to campus for a fall residency that culminates with this hit musical based loosely on Puccini's *La Bohème*. MPIRP is possible in part by a grant from the Samuel P. Mandell Foundation.

*Nov. 6-21 7:00PM 8:00PM or 2:00PM*

### JAZZ IN THE FALL

The Drexel Fusion Band presents fresh arrangements of jazz, latin, and funk classics.

*Nov. 30 7:00PM*

The Jazz Orchestra and Jazztet present music from the masters of jazz: Armstrong, Ellington, Mingus, and others.

*Dec. 2 8:00PM*

### FALL INSTRUMENTAL CONCERTS

The Fusion Band and Rock Ensemble present classical, pop, and jazz, with unique arrangements and student soloists.

*Nov. 30 7:00PM*

The Guitar and Percussion Ensembles explore the vast array of percussion traditions. The Mediterranean Ensemble programs music from Arabic, Greek, and Israeli cultures.

*Dec. 1 8:00PM*

The Drexel All-College Choir and Drexel Orchestra perform music from the Classical and Romantic eras.

*Dec. 3 7:30PM*

The Concert Band presents "Gifts of the Season," with music written for the Drexel Band by Valerie Colman and Harold Burgmayer.

*Dec. 5 7:00PM*

### FALL CHORAL CONCERTS

Naturally Sharp (Drexel's Vocal Jazz Ensemble) presents classic jazz songs in sophisticated ensemble arrangements. The Gospel Choir elevates Mandell Theater with powerful music, dance, and spoken word.

*Dec. 4 3:00PM, 7:30PM*

The University Chorus and Chamber Singers will perform Ernest Bloch's "Avodath Hakodesh" with the Main Auditorium's 4,000-pipe pipe organ, as well as secular music of the Renaissance and the 20<sup>TH</sup> Century.

*Dec. 5 3:00PM*



# Winter

## WINTER DANCE CONCERT

### REFLECTED

The Drexel Dance Ensemble's winter concert will showcase choreography exploring how dance reflects our personal and collective experiences. New work presented by 2010 Ellen Forman Award-winning choreographer Nora Gibson, the Drexel dance faculty and adjudicated student choreography will create an evening of intimacy and reflection.

Jan. 27-29 8:00PM

## FRESHDANCE: WINTER CONCERT

### NEW BEGINNINGS

The freshman dance company will perform the works of faculty choreographers Stephen Welsh, Mina Estrada, and Jodi Obeid, alongside the remounting of two selected student works from Dance Ensemble repertory.

Jan. 29 & 30 2:00PM

## AN EVENING OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSIC

The annual *Evening of African American Music* features Drexel's Gospel Choir and Jazztet in celebration of Black History Month. The concert will present spirituals, gospels, blues, jazz, and other music drawn from the rich musical traditions created by Africans in America.

Feb. 6 5:00PM

## OUR TOWN

BY THORNTON WILDER

We continue to re-imagine the classics with this fast-moving, modern version of Wilder's classic. Today each of us lives in a small town of our own creation, defined by the family and friends who share our lives. *Our Town* reminds us to appreciate the beauty that surrounds us and take time from our hectic existence to live each day to the fullest.

Feb. 24-27 2:00PM or 8:00PM

## TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MADRIGAL DINNER

Travel back in time with the Drexel Chamber Singers and guest performers for an evening of Madrigals, Chansons, Lute Songs, and Lieds in the year 1611. Come see how the nobles spent their Saturday nights.

Feb. 25 & 26 7:30PM

## JAZZ EXTRAVAGANZA XII

The Drexel Jazz Orchestra hosts the nationally-renowned Spelman College Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Professor Joseph Jennings. It's an evening dedicated to the greats of jazz as our Jazz Orchestra performs alongside the famous all-female Spelman Ensemble, a group that has shared the stage with Wynton Marsalis, Consuela Lee, Nancy Wilson, and many other jazz legends.

Mar. 10 8:00PM

## WINTER MUSIC CONCERTS

Drexel Orchestra

Mar. 4 7:00PM

Gospel Choir

Mar. 5 7:30PM

Fusion Band and Rock Ensemble

Mar. 8 7:00PM

Percussion, Mediterranean, and Guitar Ensembles

Mar. 9 8:00PM

## MENDELSSOHN'S "ELIJAH"

The University Chorus is joined by professional players and soloists in a full performance of Mendelssohn's epic oratorio "Elijah."

Mar. 13 3:00PM

All-College Choir

Mar. 11 7:30PM

Keyboard Ensemble

Mar. 11 7:30PM

The Concert Band presents "Portraits in Sound," featuring selections from Eric Ewazen's *Shadowcatcher*.

Mar. 6 7:00PM



# Spring

## "IMPROVISE!" A COLLABORATIVE CONCERT WITH MUSIC AND DANCE

This concert features pieces that require spontaneous creativity, improvisation, within their performance. Improvised performance displays the talent for in-the-moment decision making, while allowing free range for individual expression. Join us for a unique evening where anything can happen as students put aside studied choreography and established scores.

Apr. 1 8:00PM

## PERFORMANCE CHARRETTE WEEKEND

What happens when you combine digital media, dance, choreography, and electrical engineering? Spontaneity and limitations will be explored as interdisciplinary teams work together to discover a creative performance solution. Students will have 48 hours to solve a performance "problem" that involves digital media and dance culminating in a public performance on April 10.

Apr. 10 2:00PM

## NOISES OFF

BY MICHAEL FRAYN

Called a "spectacularly funny and well-known romp" by the *New York Times*, *Noises Off* gives us a glimpse into the manic world backstage of a flop called NOTHING'S ON. We see the slip-ups, backstabbing, and soap opera-like relationships that demonstrate there is often more drama behind the stage than on it.

May 12-15 2:00PM or 8:00PM

## SIXTH ANNUAL COFFEE AND JAZZ CONCERT

Experience panoramic city-wide views six stories up as our Vocal Jazz Ensemble takes the stage at sundown. Hear "anything that swings," with music from classic big band composers to the contemporary arrangements of groups like *Manhattan Transfer* and the *New York Voices*.

Apr. 29 & 30 8:20PM

## SPRING DANCE CONCERT

Dance in the modern era can mean a fusion of technology and movement. Join the *Drexel Dance Ensemble* as it presents a concert of select student works and the choreography of resident dance companies Carbon Dance Theater and Olive Prince Dance. The concert will represent a variety of dance genres and the synthesis of dance and technology.

June 2-4 8:00PM

## FRESHDANCE: SPRING CONCERT

The freshman dance company will present the reconstruction of two outstanding student works by upperclassmen as well as the choreography of faculty, Jennifer Morley, Jim Bunting, and program director Miriam Giguere.

June 4 & 5 2:00PM

## SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Fusion Band, Mediterranean Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Rock Ensemble, and Guitar Ensemble perform back-to-back, celebrating the last day of spring term classes in this first ever multi-ensemble, festival-style concert.

June 3 4:00PM

## MORE SPRING MUSIC

All-College Choir

June 1 7:30PM

Jazz Orchestra

June 2 8:00PM

Drexel Orchestra

June 3 8:00PM

## THE GREAT COURT CONCERT

The halls of the Great Court in the Main Building will be filled with the voices of the University Chorus and Chamber Singers performing the glorious music of the masters. This concert is one of the most anticipated annual choral events at Drexel due in part to the wonderful acoustics and natural amplification of the Main Building and our talented student singers.

June 5 3:00PM

# 2010–2011 Calendar of Events

## FALL

Thurs., Sept. 23–Dec. 2	<b>Thursday Late Night Series</b>	Creese Center	Free
Thurs., Oct. 14	<b>Dance Lecture-Demonstration: The Ballets of George Balanchine</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Fri., Nov. 5	<b>RENT</b> (Previews)	Mandell Theater	\$5–\$25
Sat., Nov. 6	<b>RENT</b> (Opening Night)	Mandell Theater	\$5–\$25
Sun., Nov. 7–Nov. 21	<b>RENT</b>	Mandell Theater	\$5–\$25
Tues., Nov. 30	<b>Fusion Band and Rock Ensemble</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Wed., Dec. 1	<b>Guitar Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Mediterranean Ensemble</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Thurs., Dec. 2	<b>Jazz Orchestra and Jazztet</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Fri., Dec. 3	<b>All-College Choir and Drexel Orchestra</b>	Main Auditorium	Free
Fri., Dec. 3	<b>Keyboard Ensembles</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Sat., Dec. 4	<b>Naturally Sharp</b> (Vocal Jazz Ensemble)	Mandell Theater	Free
Sat., Dec. 4	<b>Gospel Choir</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Sun., Dec. 5	<b>University Chorus and Chamber Singers</b>	Main Auditorium	Free
Sun., Dec. 5	<b>Concert Band</b>	Mandell Theater	Free

## WINTER

Thurs., Jan. 6–Mar. 10	<b>Thursday Late Night Series</b>	Creese Center	Free
Thurs.–Sat., Jan. 27–29	<b>Winter Dance Concert: REFLECTED</b>	Mandell Theater	\$8/\$5
Sat. & Sun., Jan. 29 & 30	<b>FreshDance: Winter Concert NEW BEGINNINGS</b>	Mandell Theater	\$8/\$5
Sun., Feb. 6	<b>An Evening of African-American Music</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Thurs.–Sun., Feb. 24–27	<b>OUR TOWN</b>	Mandell Theater	\$5–\$15
Fri. & Sat., Feb. 25 & 26	<b>Madrigal Dinner</b>	Great Court	\$21.95
Fri., Mar. 4	<b>Drexel Orchestra</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Sat., Mar. 5	<b>Gospel Choir</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Sun., Mar. 6	<b>Concert Band</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Tues., Mar. 8	<b>Fusion Band and Rock Ensemble</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Wed., Mar. 9	<b>Guitar Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Mediterranean Ensemble</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Thurs., Mar. 10	<b>Jazz Extravaganza XII</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Fri., Mar. 11	<b>Keyboard Ensembles</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Fri., Mar. 11	<b>All-College Choir</b>	Van Rensselaer Ballroom	Free
Sun., Mar. 13	<b>University Chorus, with Orchestra and Soloists: ELIJAH</b>	Main Auditorium	\$3–\$8

## SPRING

Thurs., Mar. 31–June 2	<b>Thursday Late Night Series</b>	Creese Center	Free
Fri., Apr. 1	<b>"Improvise!" A Collaborative Concert with Music and Dance</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Fri.–Sun., Apr. 8–10	<b>Performance Charrette Weekend</b>	Mandell Theater	Free
Fri. & Sat., Apr. 29 & 30	<b>Naturally Sharp</b> (Vocal Jazz Ensemble)	Faculty Club	\$7
Thurs.–Sun., May 12–15	<b>NOISES OFF</b>	Mandell Theater	\$5–\$15
Wed., June 1	<b>All-College Choir</b>	Van Rensselaer Ballroom	Free
Thurs., June 2	<b>Jazz Orchestra</b>	TBD	Free
Thurs.–Sat., June 2–4	<b>Spring Dance Concert</b>	Mandell Theater	\$8/\$5
Fri., June 3	<b>Drexel Orchestra</b>	Van Rensselaer Ballroom	Free
Fri., June 3	<b>Spring Music Festival</b>	Outdoor Campus Location	Free
Sat. & Sun., June 4 & 5	<b>FreshDance: Spring Concert</b>	Mandell Theater	\$8/\$5
Sun., June 5	<b>University Chorus</b>	Great Court	Free
Sun., June 5	<b>Concert Band</b>	Mandell Theater	Free



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# Important Info

## ACCOMMODATIONS & SERVICES

Mandell Theater is wheelchair accessible and offers Assistive 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 Services (ODS). The ODS can be reached at 215.895.1401 (V), 215.895.2299 (TTY), or [disability@drexel.edu](mailto: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 34<sup>TH</sup> & Ludlow Streets
- Five Star parking at 31<sup>ST</sup> & JFK Blvd.
- 31<sup>ST</sup> & 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. Drexel University's Cultural Passports are honored at most events, subject to availability.

## TICKETS

To reserve tickets for a performance, please call 215.895.ARTS or visit our Box Office one hour prior to the show. Only cash and checks are accepted.

## LOCATIONS

Mandell Theater is located at 33<sup>RD</sup> & Chestnut Streets.  
Main Auditorium and the Great Court are located in the Main Building at 32<sup>ND</sup> & Chestnut Streets.  
Greese Center is located at 32<sup>ND</sup> & Chestnut Streets.  
Van Rensselaer Ballroom is located in the Van Rensselaer Dormitory at 34<sup>TH</sup> Street and Powelton Avenue.  
Faculty Club is on the sixth floor of MacAlister Hall, 33<sup>RD</sup> & Chestnut Streets.

## BROCHURE CREDITS

### Photography

Jacques-Jean Tziou for dance  
[www.jjtziou.net](http://www.jjtziou.net)

Jules Victor for Bluebird and  
A Midsummer Night's Dream

Evan Rosen for Reeler Madness

### Design

Starship Design  
[www.starship.com](http://www.starship.com)



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3141 Chestnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

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