

Drexel University

Department of Performing Arts

2010–2011 Season Brochure



ANTOINETTE WESTPHAL
COLLEGE OF MEDIA ARTS & DESIGN
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), 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
or visit 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

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
11TH 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 11TH 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 20TH 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 All-College Choir
Mar. 4 7:00PM Mar. 11 7:30PM

Gospel Choir Keyboard Ensemble
Mar. 5 7:30PM Mar. 11 7:30PM

Fusion Band and Rock Ensemble The Concert Band presents "Portraits in Sound," featuring selections from Eric Ewazen's *Shadowcatcher*.
Mar. 8 7:00PM Mar. 6 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



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 Drexel Orchestra
June 1 7:30PM June 3 8:00PM

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

WINTER

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

SPRING

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|---------------------------|--|-------------------------|----------|
| Thurs., Mar. 31–June 2 | Thursday Late Night Series | Creese Center | Free |
| Fri., Apr. 1 | "Improvise!" A Collaborative Concert with Music and Dance | Mandell Theater | Free |
| Fri.–Sun., Apr. 8–10 | Performance Charrette Weekend | Mandell Theater | Free |
| Fri. & Sat., Apr. 29 & 30 | Naturally Sharp (Vocal Jazz Ensemble) | Faculty Club | \$7 |
| Thurs.–Sun., May 12–15 | NOISES OFF | Mandell Theater | \$5–\$15 |
| Wed., June 1 | All-College Choir | Van Rensselaer Ballroom | Free |
| Thurs., June 2 | Jazz Orchestra | TBD | Free |
| Thurs.–Sat., June 2–4 | Spring Dance Concert | Mandell Theater | \$8/\$5 |
| Fri., June 3 | Drexel Orchestra | Van Rensselaer Ballroom | Free |
| Fri., June 3 | Spring Music Festival | Outdoor Campus Location | Free |
| Sat. & Sun., June 4 & 5 | FreshDance: Spring Concert | Mandell Theater | \$8/\$5 |
| Sun., June 5 | University Chorus | Great Court | Free |
| Sun., June 5 | Concert Band | 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. 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 & 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. 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 33RD & Chestnut Streets.
Main Auditorium and the Great Court are located in the Main Building at 32ND & Chestnut Streets.
Greese Center is located at 32ND & Chestnut Streets.
Van Rensselaer Ballroom is located in the Van Rensselaer Dormitory at 34TH Street and Powelton Avenue.
Faculty Club is on the sixth floor of MacAlister Hall, 33RD & Chestnut Streets.

BROCHURE CREDITS

Photography

Jacques-Jean Tziou for dance
www.jftziou.net

Jules Victor for Bluebird and
A Midsummer Night's Dream

Evan Rosen for Reeler Madness

Design

Starship Design
www.starship.com



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3141 Chestnut St.
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