

Department of Music

SCSU Blue Steel Drumline performs on- and off-campus



Established in 2009 with the support of the Stutzman Family Foundation, the SCSU Drum Line performs regularly at Commencement, New Student Convocation, Move-in Day, and athletic events. This year, the Drum Line is performing at all home SCSU Football games and will be pumping up the crowd at the pep rally during Homecoming Weekend in October.

The 20 member group rehearses four days a week throughout the year and includes a combination of Southern students, high school students from New Haven schools, and community members. In addition to their on-campus work, Drum Line performs regularly at community parades, competitions, and clinics where they teach fundamental skills including marching and maneuvering.

Drum Line is led by Eric Green (director) and SCSU Music alum Joshua Smith. Catch them on-campus soon!

Department of Music - 120 Earl Hall
<https://www.southernct.edu/academics/music>

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Earl Hall! It has been a busy summer for us, not least with a very successful international tour of our choir to the United Kingdom under the direction of Dr. Terese Gemme and with the significant support of the Stutzman Family Foundation (see page 2).

Now, another fall semester is underway, with some exciting things in store. We are pleased to welcome six new and returning faculty members teaching in support of our growing programs (page 3). Our program in Music Therapy, still the only program of its kind in the state of Connecticut, is now in its third year and enrolling 25 students! This year will also see us work towards continued accreditation with the National Association of Schools of Music. A rigorous process that serves to underline the quality and achievements of our program, Southern has held accreditation with NASM since 2018.

Also in this newsletter, you'll find news about the SCSU Drum Line and a round-up of photos from the start of the semester. Thanks for reading—and, we hope we might hear from you soon, too!

Joshua Groffman
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Associate Professor & Chairperson, Music

Send us your news!

Students and alumni: do you have some interesting projects or stories to share? We'd love to hear about them! E-mail or call us with news that we might be able to feature in a future newsletter.

Share your story:

Email: music@southernct.edu
or (203) 392-6625

SCSU Choirs tour to London, York, and Edinburgh

This past summer saw the return of a signature Music Department tradition that has been sorely missed since the COVID pandemic: the international choir tour! With generous support from the Stutzman Family Foundation, students, alumni, and community members travelled from May 29-June 6 to the United Kingdom, visiting London, York, Edinburgh, St. Andrews and many points in between, and performing three concerts for enthusiastic audiences. The group was led by choir director Dr. Terese Gemme and was joined by SCSU Interim President Dr. Dwayne Smith.

[Click to see one of the choir performances, at St. James Piccadilly!](#)



Music Department new & returning faculty

This fall, the Music Department brought on six new and returning part-time faculty members.

We are pleased to welcome:

Emily Bevelaqua, music therapy clinical training

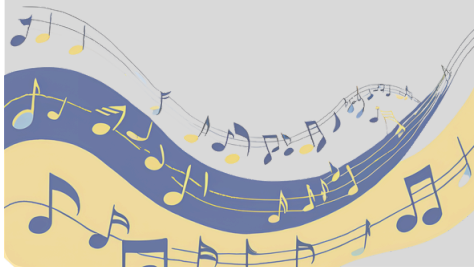
Andy Gundell, songwriting

Emily Miclon, percussion & class piano

Dan Minogue, music technology

Rebecca Patterson, cello

Ryan Sands, drum set



Welcome back students!

Open Mic, August 28



Music majors "Welcome Back"

meeting, September 11



See more pictures throughout the year at the SCSU Music Instagram feed @scsumusicdept

News & notes from Department of Music faculty, students, & alumni

Joshua Arizmendi (B.A. MUS '25)

Composer and lyricist of new musical *Wake Up*, premiering at SCSU on October 25.

Andy Gundell (Songwriting)

Creator and owner of licensing library Future Hits and 2023 winner of the Production Music Association's Mark Award for "Jazz Track of the Year."

Joshua Groffman (Theory, Technology)

Book review of *The Auditory Setting* by Budhaditya Chattopadhyay forthcoming in the journal *Music, Sound, and the Moving Image*. Appointed to the editorial boards of *Ecomusicology Review* and *Hudson River Valley Review*.

Nathan Mensah (Music Therapy)

Composer/lyricist of musical *Super Cyber Battle Rangers* (Act 1 premiered at Indy Fringe Festival in August, full production premiering in November). 2024 President of The Music Therapy Spot, providing educational opportunities and resources to music therapy students, interns, and new professionals.

Jennifer Sokira (Music Therapy)

Successfully defended dissertation proposal "Trauma-Informed Care in Music Therapy Education: Perspectives from Educators and Early Career Professionals" and is now a doctoral candidate in education at Alverno College. Currently serving as Vice President of the American Music Therapy Association.

Eric Trudel (Piano)

Travel to Japan in November 2024 for recital of Japanese art song in Tokyo.

Ryan Sands (Drums)

Recent tours of eastern U.S. and Europe with multiple ensembles. Local performances at Possible Futures (New Haven), Bedford Middle School, and with Amina Figarova (Westport, CT). September 27-29 CD release show with Christian Sands at Smoke Jazz Club (New York City).

Faculty Spotlight

Hailing from Orange, CT, Ryan Sands has become one of the top young drummers in his field. His emphatic performances have landed him appearances with Terell Stafford, Geoffrey Keezer, Wayne Escoffrey, Tamir Hendleman, Lucy Yeghiazaryan, and Jason Marsalis.



Ryan's musical education includes a BA in Jazz Performance from the New England Conservatory and an MA in Jazz Arts from the Manhattan School of Music. He has taught for Neighborhood Music School in New Haven, CT and iSchool of Music and Art in Shanghai. He currently teaches private drums at Yale University for their Yale Undergrad Jazz Collective.

He holds the drum chair for Christian Sands and Altus. Ryan's recording credits include Christian Sands' *Risin'*, *Christmas Stories*, and an upcoming record in 2024, Altus' *Riot Cycles* and *Mythos*, David Knowles' *Blackest Night*, and Shihai Li's *Inner Rhythm*. As a bandleader Ryan's debut record was *Standing On the Edge of Tomorrow*; he will be releasing his sophomore record, *Arrival: Live at the Side Door*, in 2024.