

SWARTHMORE MUSIC 2025-2026

Swarthmore's Department of Music is a vibrant community of performers, creators and critical thinkers who share a passion for music. Our academic courses invite students to think deeply about music; our ensembles bring talented students together to perform challenging and varied repertoire; our masterclass and residency programs bring some of our country's most distinguished musicians to campus for ongoing collaborations with our students; and our program of private instruction enables students to study with some of the finest teachers from Philadelphia to New York City.

Through our varied programming, we are thrilled to present an exceptional 25-26 season, featuring world-class artists and scholars David Kim, Aubrey Logan, Third Coast Percussion, and the Brentano String Quartet, along with a brand new concert series featuring new music. All of our events are free and open to the public.

Music at Swarthmore



Featured Artists

Each year Swarthmore Music hosts performances, residencies and masterclasses by distinguished musicians and dancers from around the world. The Featured Artist series presents each artist as performer and teacher, leading masterclasses, giving solo performances, and collaborating in performances with Swarthmore College student musicians.



Violinist David Kim was named concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra in 1999. Born in Carbondale, Illinois, in 1963, he started playing the violin at the age of three, began studies with the famed pedagogue Dorothy DeLay at the age of eight, and later received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Juilliard School. As a child prodigy, Mr. Kim was featured on many national television programs including Disney's The Mickey Mouse Club. His first book, *The Audition Method for Violin*, was published by GIA Publications and released in 2022. This long-awaited collection of standard orchestral excerpts walks the reader through each work with his suggestions on execution, audition strategy, bowings, and fingerings.

With a career spanning over three decades, the Brentano Quartet has appeared throughout the world to popular and critical acclaim. The New York Times extols its “luxuriously warm sound [and] yearning lyricism; and the Times (London) hails their “wonderful, selfless music-making.” Known for its unique sensibility, probing interpretive style, and original programming, the Quartet has performed across five continents in the world's most prestigious venues and festivals, thus establishing itself as one of the world's preeminent ensembles. The Quartet is named for Antonie Brentano, whom many scholars consider to be Beethoven's “Immortal Beloved,” the intended recipient of his famous love confession.



Third Coast Percussion (TCP) is a GRAMMY® Award-winning Chicago-based percussion quartet and GRAMMY®-nominated composer collective that made history as the first percussion ensemble to win the revered music award in the classical genre. TCP is renowned worldwide for its exciting and unexpected performances that constantly redefine the classical music experience and “push percussion in new directions, blurring musical boundaries and beguiling new listeners” (NPR), with a brilliantly varied sonic palette and “dazzling rhythmic workouts” (Pitchfork).

Jessie Montgomery is an acclaimed composer, violinist, and educator. She is the recipient of the Leonard Bernstein Award from the ASCAP Foundation, the Sphinx Medal of Excellence, and her works are performed frequently around the world by leading musicians and ensembles. Her music interweaves classical music with elements of vernacular music, improvisation, poetry, and social consciousness, making her an acute interpreter of 21st century American sound and experience.



More Concerts and Events

In addition to the Featured Artist Program, the Swarthmore Music Program is thrilled to present worldclass musicians in a range of masterclasses, lectures, and performances.

Fetter 2025 Fest

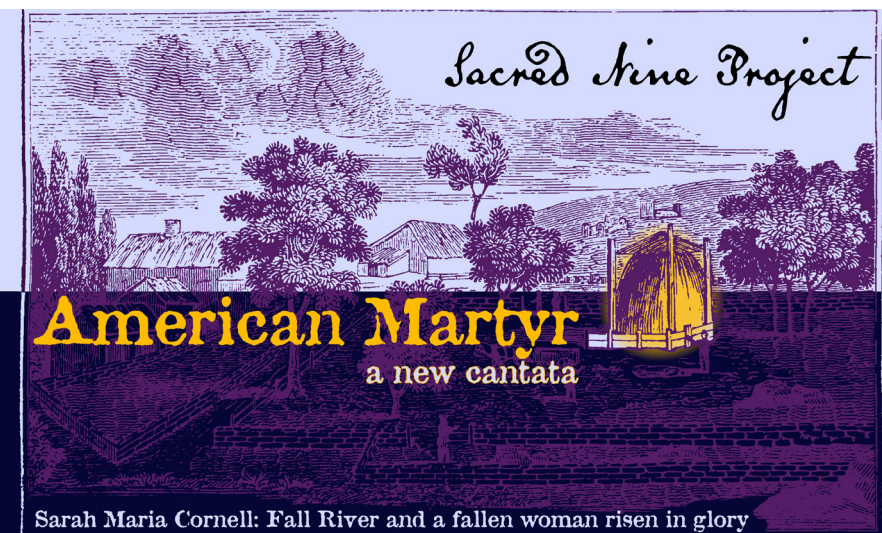
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE
ELIZABETH POLLARD FETTER
CHAMBER MUSIC PROGRAM

The Swarthmore College Department of Music celebrates 50 years of the Elizabeth Pollard Fetter Chamber Music Program during Garnet Weekend 2025. The celebration will kick off with a performance by the Brentano String Quartet (including Serena Canin '88) and a reception to follow. Saturday will be filled with chamber music making across campus, culminating with an informal Fetter Chamber Music Concert in Lang Concert Hall celebrating the wide variety of Swarthmore musicians who have benefited from the amazing opportunities offered by the Fetter Chamber Music Program since 1975.

**FetterFest: October 24 - 25, 2025 in Lang Concert Hall
and spaces throughout campus**

The Swarthmore College Orchestra, directed by Andrew Hauze, will present a family concert featuring the first four movements of Gustav Holst's The Planets, op.32: Mars, Venus, Mercury, and Jupiter. The program will include demonstrations of the instruments and themes between each movement. Audiences of all ages are encouraged to attend.

Family Concert: Gustav Holst's The Planets (Mvmts 1-4): December 6, 2025
@ 11am in Lang Concert Hall



World premiere vocal performance of an original work for soloists, chorus, piano, and organ by composer C. Leonard Raybon. Inspired by Murder in a Mill Town by Swarthmore Professor Bruce Dorsey, American Martyr tells the tale of Sarah Maria Cornell – tossed about by her friends, family, and God – searching desperately for love and faith in a life cut short. In this new work, she is made whole, beatified. Featuring vocal performances by students and alums. Presented by Swarthmore's Music and History Departments.

American Martyr: a new cantata: Friday, March 27, 2026 @ 8pm in Lang Concert Hall

Inspired by Jay Kirk's Avoid the Day, the Daedalus Quartet joins forces with Pig Iron Theatre Company and visual artist Sebastienne Mundheim to present Bartok's Monster: a concert and sly "lecture-demonstration" about Bela Bartok's life and work. This kaleidoscopic performance follows Kirk's research into Hungarian composer Béla Bartok's methods of creation, Kirk's travels to Transylvania, and ultimately to a flirtation with madness.

Bartok's Monster: Friday March 20, 2026 8:00 PM Pearson Hall Theater, Lang Performing Arts Center
Saturday March 21, 2026 2:00 PM and 8:00 PM Pearson Hall Theater, Lang Performing Arts Center



Friday at Six

fresh music and the stories behind it

Join Swarthmore Music on select Fridays at 6pm throughout the academic year for a novel concert series focusing on new music and the artists who bring it to life. This intimate program of live music and conversation is curated and hosted by Visiting Assistant Professor Quinn Collins, and takes place in the stunningly beautiful and acoustically superb 450-seat Lang Concert Hall. Programs are anticipated to last one hour with a reception to follow.

Leila Adu’s velvet-voiced, engaging performances are a patchwork of punk protest lyrics, classical harmonies, Afro rock and jazz-era torch songs. Exploring her roots in New Zealand, Britain and Ghana, Adu is an international artist who has performed at festivals and venues across the world. Compared to Nina Simone and Joanna Newsome by WNYC, Adu has released five acclaimed albums, and has given visionary solo BBC and WQXR performances. Adu’s credits include Ojai Music Festival, Bang on a Can, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Late Night with David Letterman, and composing for a Billboard charted album. Jazz Weekly asks: “This lady is on to something, both sonically and stylistically, forming a rich and personal language of her own. When’s she touring?” LEILA ADU features David Frazier on drums & Spencer Murphy on bass.

Leila Adu: Friday, September 19, 2025 @ 6pm



Brooklyn-based flutist Roberta Michel is dedicated to the music of our time. Praising her “extreme adventurousness,” New York Concert Review said she “riveted with her performance, inspiring one to want a repeated hearing.” Co-artistic Director of Wavefield and a member of Da Capo Chamber Players, PinkNoise and SEM Ensemble, Michel has also performed with: Art Ensemble of Chicago, Cadillac Moon Ensemble (founding member), Bang on a Can All-Stars, Ecce Ensemble, Portland String Quartet, Newspeak, Wet Ink Ensemble, Argento, Iktus, Wordless Music Orchestra, and Cygnus Ensemble among others. She can be heard on several recordings, including the GRAMMY-winning album of Dame Ethyl Smyth’s The Prison with Experiential Orchestra.

Roberta Michel: Friday, November 7, 2025 @ 6pm

Mel Hsu is a sonic painter of impossible worlds. As a multi-instrumentalist, Mel often ventures from her classical roots as a cellist into unexpected, cross-disciplinary collaborations. Rooted in West Philly, Mel’s restless spirit finds adventure across time zones and oceans as musical and administrative support for others who inspire her. She has had the honor of performing alongside Eminem, Mac Miller and Ani DiFranco. Mel is a spreadsheet nerd, a slow reader, and a shameless instigator of kitchen dance parties.

Mel Hsu Friday, January 30, 2026 @ 6pm





Making Music at Swarthmore

Swarthmore Music has eight student ensembles including [Chinese Music Ensemble](#), [Chorus](#), Critical Mass, [Gamelan Semara Santi](#), [Garnet Singers](#), [Jazz Ensemble](#), [Orchestra](#), and [Wind Ensemble](#), as well as our [Fetter Chamber Music Program](#) which facilitates music making in small groups in a wide variety of styles. Most ensembles are open to Swarthmore students and community members at large no matter their experience level or musical background. These ensembles can introduce students

to musical genres they have no prior experience in or even knowledge of. Students learn about the historical context and cultural connections of the pieces they perform, which helps them relate the music to the world around them. Each ensemble performs at least once per semester in the Lang Concert Hall.



In addition to our ensemble performances in Lang Concert Hall, Swarthmore Music is proud to present [Lunch Hour Concerts](#). This popular midday concert series takes place weekly in Parrish Parlour, a cozy and intimate room located at the heart of Swarthmore's campus. It provides an informal venue for students, faculty, and visiting professional musicians to experiment with performance techniques, try out new pieces, and preview works which might later be performed at the Lang Concert Hall. Swarthmore community members from all over campus are able to stop by and take in these short, impromptu performances on the way to their next class.



*All events in Lang Concert Hall
unless otherwise noted*

- Friday, September 19, 2025 @ 6pm**
Friday at Six: Leila Adu Trio
- Friday, October 24, 2025 @ 12pm**
Brentano String Quartet Masterclass
- Friday, October 24, 2025 @ 8pm**
FesterFest Celebration w/Brentano String Quartet
- Saturday, October 25, 2025 @ 7pm**
FetterFest Chamber Music Concert
- Monday, October 27, 2025 @ 12:30pm**
Violin Masterclass with David Kim
- Wednesday, October 29, 2025 @ 4:30pm**
Peter Gram Swing Lecture (Scheuer Room)
- Friday, November 7, 2025 @ 6pm**
Friday at Six: Roberta Michel
- Saturday, November 15, 2025 @ 8pm**
Swarthmore College Wind Ensemble
- Sunday, November 16, 2025 @ 7:30pm**
Swarthmore College Jazz Ensemble
with special guest Aubrey Logan
- Friday, November 21, 2025 @ 12pm**
Cello Masterclass with Kangho Lee
- Friday, November 21, 2025 @ 8pm**
Swarthmore College Chorus & Garnet Singers
- Saturday, November 22, 2025 @ 3pm**
Fetter Chamber Music Concert

Concerts & Events

- Sunday, November 23, 2025 @ 3pm**
Swarthmore College Gamelan Semara Santi
- Sunday, November 23, 2025 @ 7:30pm**
Critical Mass
- Friday, December 5, 2025 @ 8pm**
Fetter Chamber Music Concert
- Saturday, December 6, 2025 @ 11am**
Family Concert: Holst's The Planets (Mvmts 1-4)
- Saturday, December 6, 2025 @ 3pm**
Fetter Chamber Music Concert
- Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 3pm**
Swarthmore College Chinese Music Ensemble
- Sunday, December 7, 2025 @ 7:30pm**
Swarthmore College Orchestra with special guest
David Kim
- Friday, January 30, 2026 @ 6pm**
Friday at Six: Mel Hsu
- Saturday, February 7, 2026 @ 8pm**
Third Coast Percussion
- Sunday, February 8, 2026 @ 12pm**
Third Coast Percussion Masterclass
- Wednesday, March 18, 2026 @ 12pm**
Deadalus String Quartet Masterclass
- Friday, March 20, 2026 @ 7pm; Saturday, March 21, 2026 @ 2pm; Sunday, March 21 @ 7pm** Bartok's
Monster: Daedalus Quartet, Sebastienne Mundheim, & Pig
Iron Theatre (LPAC Pearson Hall)

- Friday, March 27, 2026 @ 8pm**
American Martyr: A New Cantata
- Saturday, April 11, 2026 @ 8pm**
Swarthmore College Wind Ensemble
- Sunday, April 12, 2026 @ 3pm**
Swarthmore College Gamelan Semara Santi
- Sunday, April 12, 2026 @ 7:30pm**
Swarthmore College Jazz Ensemble
- Friday, April 17, 2026 @ 8pm**
Fetter Chamber Music Concert
- Saturday, April 18, 2026 @ 8pm**
Fetter Chamber Music Concert
- Sunday, April 19, 2026 @ 3pm**
Fetter Chamber Music Concert
- Friday, April 24, 2026 @ 8pm**
Swarthmore College Chorus & Garnet Singers
- Saturday, April 25, 2026 @ 8pm**
Swarthmore College Orchestra
- Sunday, April 26, 2026 @ 3pm**
Fetter Chamber Music Concert
- Friday, May 1, 2026 @ 8pm**
Fetter Chamber Music Concert
- Saturday, May 2, 2026 @ 3pm**
Critical Mass
- Sunday, May 3, 2026 @ 3pm**
Swarthmore College Chinese Music Ensemble

All Events are Free and Open to the Public

Directions to Lang Music Building (from the North Entrance to the College)

The North Entrance is accessed by turning right onto Elm Avenue from Route 320 (2nd street on the right after the traffic light at Rt. 320 and Chester Road). Stay on Elm as it crosses Cedar; the next left hand turn will be Whittier. Follow Whittier all the way to the Science Center, making a right hand turn and then a left as the road goes around the Science Center. Parking is in the Water Tower lot on your right.

Swarthmore College encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access provided, Please contact Susan Smythe, ADA Program Manager at 610-690-2063 in advance of your participation or visit.

The GPS address for the Lang Music Building is:
99 Whittier Place, 19081

Swarthmore Music Live Streaming



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