 **TORQ**
PERCUSSION QUARTET



Described by the Ottawa Citizen as "Outstanding - no, make that astonishing!", Canada's premiere percussion ensemble TorQ Percussion Quartet continues to bring new vitality to percussion repertoire and performance in every situation and opportunity. Renowned for their engaging performances, members Richard Burrows, Adam Campbell, Jamie Drake, and Daniel Morphy are committed to making percussion music accessible to audiences that span generations and as The Toronto Star states "[TorQ] can stand proud among the growing

thrung of chamber percussion ensembles around the world."

Since coming together in 2004, some of their international highlights include the International Percussion Quartet Festival (Luxembourg), Percussive Arts Society International Convention (Indianapolis) and with the Stuttgart Chamber Choir. At home, TorQ has made appearances at the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, PEI's Indian River Festival, MusicFest Canada (Vancouver), Toronto's Soundstreams, and Kitchener's Open Ears Contemporary Music Festival. Selected by the three major Canadian touring organisations, Jeunesses Musicales Canada, Prairie Debut and Debut Atlantic, TorQ has performed throughout every province. In 2012, they launched their first annual concert series in Toronto where they collaborated with invited guest artists, composers, and dancers.

The 2014-2015 season saw TorQ on extensive tours in Alaska, Illinois, Idaho, British Columbia, Nova Scotia and Ontario. They were guest artists with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Grand Philharmonic Choir of Kitchener-Waterloo. As collaborative artists, the quartet has performed with the Larkin Singers, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Elora Festival Singers, and the Hamilton Children's Choir, as well as soloists Krisztina Szabo, Rivka Golani, and composer Nicole Lizée.

Committed to commissioning new works for percussion quartet, TorQ has presented many Canadian and world premieres including a new percussion quartet concerto written by Canadian composer, Dinuk Wijeratne called *Invisible Cities* which premiered in 2014. Their discography consists of two recordings on Bedoint Records, the self-titled first CD was awarded 3.5/4 stars by The Toronto Star. Their third CD was released in November 2014, in celebration of their milestone 10th anniversary season. Titled *Without a Map*, this two disc set consists entirely of improvised music that, while sharing identical percussive instrument groupings by track order, offer alternate perspectives of the quartet's sonic journey.

Advocates for music education, TorQ is actively involved in music education initiatives and performs approximately 70 school shows per year, and are faculty members of the Durham Integrated Arts Camp, run by the Durham District School Board. They are also frequent educational collaborators with Soundstreams Canada and present master classes and workshops for high schools and university students. Summer 2015 saw TorQ hosted their fourth annual TorQ Percussion Seminar, a week-long percussion event which took place in collaboration with the Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

TorQ endorses Yamaha Percussion, Innovative Percussion, Dream Cymbals, Black Swamp Percussion and Remo Percussion.

"...confidence, energy, and subtlety shone darkly in a powerful and theatrical performance of a work that stands outside of trends or time. They may be young men, but they have old souls." (musicalToronto.org)

COMPANY BIOS



Richard Burrows received both a Masters of Arts in Music Education and a Masters of Music in Performance Percussion from the University of Toronto, and an Honours Bachelor of Music in Performance Percussion from Wilfrid Laurier University. As a former principal cast member of ScrapArtsMusic, Richard has performed throughout North America, Europe, Mexico, Asia and Australia. He has also shared the stage with Nebosja Jovan Zivkovic, Evelyn Glennie, Synergy Percussion and NEXUS. Closer to home, he plays with numerous orchestras including the Kitchener/Waterloo Symphony Orchestra. As a freelance percussionist he has performed with the improv ensemble "Digital Prowess", with famed bass clarinetist Kathryn Ladano in "Stealth," with new music projects for InterArtsMatrix, and was as a member of the Toronto Raptors drumline "TR Beat".

An avid educator, Richard gives masterclasses on improvisation, concert percussion and drumline throughout Ontario, and across Canada. He is also on faculty at the International Music Camp in North Dakota.

Adam Campbell completed his Master of Music degree at the University of Toronto, studying with John Rudolph, Beverley Johnston and Russell Hartenberger, and completed his Bachelor's degree at Acadia University with Ken Shorley and Mark Adam. He has been a member of the National Concert Band and the Scotia Festival of Music, and has performed in Haliburton, ON as part of R. Murray Schafer's production *Princess of the Stars*. As a contemporary and chamber percussionist, he has performed with Evelyn Glennie, Nexus, Beverley Johnston, Toronto Wind Orchestra, Peterborough Symphony Orchestra, Mississauga Chamber Music Society, Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, Talisker Players, Array New Music Ensemble, Esprit Orchestra, and is a member of the Evergreen Club Contemporary Gamelan and the Persian/Serbian fusion group, Ladom. As a freelance drummer and studio musician, Adam regularly performs and records throughout Toronto with folk, rock, pop, R&B and hip-hop artists of all types, plays in pits for musicals, and is the house drummer and a producer at Euphonic Sound recording studio. He is also an avid teacher and clinician, and has toured and continues to work with Soundstreams Canada to present workshops across Ontario.



Jamie Drake is currently a Doctorate of Musical Arts candidate at the University of Toronto, where he is completing his dissertation on the history and current usage of the cajón. He completed his Masters degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, studying with Jack Van Geem, and his Bachelors at U of T with Russell Hartenberger, Beverley Johnston and John Rudolph. He has performed with Evelyn Glennie, NEXUS, Beverley Johnston, Soundstreams, the Toronto Sinfonietta, the Aradia Ensemble, ScotiaFest Orchestra and Chamber Ensembles, and was a regular member of both the Mississauga Symphony and the Mississauga Philharmonic. He is currently the Artist-in-Residence for the award-winning Hamilton Children's Choir. His solo and chamber performances have included premieres by Christos Hatzis, Elinor Armer and John Luther Adams.

As a founding member of indie group Muskox, he blurred the lines between jazz/folk/prog-rock/americana. Equally at home playing drumset, Jamie plays regularly with cabaret superstar Sharron Matthews and Acting Upstage's Concert series, and performs in a variety of styles with musicians around Toronto and beyond. An active pit musician, Jamie has played for more than 50 musicals, including Canadian Stage's critically acclaimed production of *London Road*.

Daniel Morphy graduated from the University of Toronto and Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music, and now performs with some of Toronto's most well known and respected ensembles. An avid orchestral and chamber musician, Daniel frequently performs with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Esprit Orchestra, the Evergreen Club Contemporary Gamelan, and the Big Zang Collective. Other performances include concertos with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Toronto Wind Orchestra. Always busy with new and exciting projects, Daniel is currently developing a solo repertoire with guidance from master percussionist Ray Dillard. Future projects include "Marimba +", a program of repertoire for solo marimba and one other element (small percussion, tape, electronics, etc). Daniel has attended the Aspen Summer Music Festival and School (2008) and Steve Schick's "Roots and Rhizomes" percussion workshop at the Banff Centre for the Arts (2010). Daniel can also be heard on CBC, NAXOS, Centrediscs, and TSO live recordings.



P R E S S

"The TorQ boys were masterful."

- *MusicalToronto.org*

"[TorQ] was outstanding. No, make that astonishing."

- *The Ottawa Citizen*

"What made the evening special was the tight connection between these four players, which gave everything they did a sense of unbreakable continuity and energy. [...] TorQ has arrived."

- *MusicalToronto.org*

"They were amazing from the start."

- *The Ottawa Citizen*

"TorQ is riding a creative surge."

- *The Toronto Star*

"I was awestruck by a fabulous performance by four gifted musicians...TorQ amazed a full house with an array of technique. Never have I seen such an interesting combination of instruments create such breathtaking sounds."

- *The Journal Pioneer* (Summerside, P.E.I.)

"Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine myself writing the following words, but here they are: I just heard an exquisite performance of [my composition] *Sleep* as transcribed for marimba quartet. I was just knocked out, by their nuanced music-making; their sense of line and phrase; and their deep, deep understanding of the underlying structure of the piece. Really blew my mind."

- Eric Whitacre, renowned American choral composer and conductor

"The Friday night concert was an absolute gem.... all four percussionists were shredding in perfect unison. "

- *The Athenaeum* (Wolfville, Nova Scotia)

"It is no surprise that they continue, undaunted by the path less travelled, to be pioneers of sorts in the world of modern percussion."

- *Ontario News North*

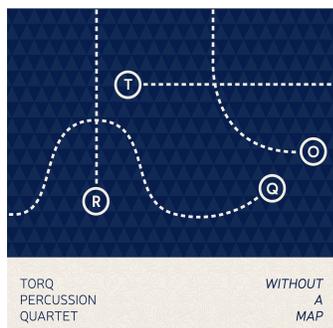
"[TorQ] proved they are highly talented and truly visionaries. "

- *The Echo* (Manitouwadge, Ontario)

"The group displayed a wide range of musical talent throughout the show, delivering tightly controlled, nuanced and complex pieces as well as frenetic, loud celebrations of cacophony."

- *Sioux Lookout Bulletin*

DISCOGRAPHY



2014

Without A Map

BR-003

TorQ's most recent recording is a 22-track double album of improvisations, and is the result of a week-long retreat to an old Orange Lodge in Wyebridge, ON in fall 2013 with engineer/mixer/producer Ray Dillard. Each day we would pick a group of instruments (woods, metals, gongs, hand drums, multi-setups, etc), set them up, have Ray set up some mics, record a bunch of improvis back to back, break for lunch, record some more, switch a setup, and start all over again. Each disc ("There" and "Back") features the same order of instrument groupings; that is, track 1 on each disc uses multi-instrument setups, track 2 uses hand drums, etc., but the music on the corresponding tracks is often very different.

TORQ PERCUSSION QUARTET

2011

two + two

BR-002



The compositions selected for TorQ's second recording are important not just personally to the ensemble but also to the larger sphere of percussion chamber music. Featuring commissions by Jason Stanford and Christos Hatzis, a new work by Nebojsa Zivkovic, and John Cage's venerable *Third Construction*.

*"two + two" is an important recording. The performances project a unanimity of purpose and spirit while demonstrating an **artistry that puts TorQ squarely on par with the best percussion ensembles in the world.** [...] Sonically, I believe this to be a landmark recording. [...] The entire effort is a tour de force. TorQ and (producer) Ray Dillard have serendipitously teamed up to create a "must have" percussion ensemble recording."*

- **Robin Engelman**, founding member of NEXUS percussion ensemble

*"[TorQ's] sophomore recording effort "two + two" is a **remarkable collection of engaging pieces, fine performances and above all, balance.** [...] Top to bottom the performances are impeccable, both in virtuosity and sensitivity. Some percussive collections have a tendency to be overly intellectual, but this is definitely a CD that works both when you listen to it with your eyes closed and when you listen on a drive. [...] Bringing energy and drive to [Cage's *Third Construction*], the instrument choice and execution make this something special. All in all a wonderful effort from TorQ, and I'm very eager to see what lies ahead for them."*

- **Evan Mitchell** (assistant conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra), *Music Times*



2009
Self-titled debut

BR-001

Featuring improvisations, commissioned works, and arrangements, this album showcases some of TorQ's diverse and strongly Canadian repertoire.

*"This eponymous CD features improvisations, arrangements and compositions by group members Daniel Morphy, Jamie Drake and Richard Burrows, plus works by Toronto composers Michael Smith, Elisha Denburg and Mark Duggan. There's lots of lively music here, but moments of contemplation too as in the bell-like sonorities of Duggan's moving John's Gone. TorQ was awarded a MARTY for "Best Emerging Performing Arts Group – 2009" by the Mississauga Arts Council and **this debut release demonstrates why.**"*

- **David Olds**, editor, *WholeNote Magazine*

*"In seven pieces and three improvisations, they also show off the wide range of mood, melody and counterpoint possible in a carefully laid out and layered programme. Better yet, this is a 100 per cent local effort that can stand proud among the growing throng of chamber percussion ensembles around the world. [...] Every moment on this disc pulses with the obvious love that these four guys have for what they do. **3.5/4 stars.**"*

- **John Terauds**, classical music critic, *Toronto Star*

REPERTOIRE

Selected repertoire as of December 2014. Asterisk (*) denotes a TorQ commission and premiere, diamond (❖) denotes a Canadian composer. TorQ is constantly commissioning new works and adding new repertoire; this list will therefore change regularly.

Adams, John Luther - *Strange and Sacred Noise*
Adams, John Luther - *Inuksuit*
Brophy, Dan - *KI** ❖
Burrows, Richard and Morphy, Daniel - *The Four Elements Suite** ❖
Cage, John - *Bacchanale* (arr. D. Morphy) *
Cage, John - *In a Landscape* (arr. J. Drake) *
Cage, John - *Living Room Music*
Cage, John - *Sonatas and Interludes* (arr. TorQ)*
Cage, John - *Third Construction*
Cagelosi, Casey - *Theatric No. 4*
Campbell, Adam - *El Mosquito Marrón** ❖
Campbell, Adam - *Broken Beats #1** ❖
Cole, Elliot - *Postludes for Bowed Vibraphone*
Denburg, Elisha - *Sleepwalking** ❖
Denburg, Elisha - *Dance of Joy and Whimsy** ❖
Drake, Jamie - *Rhythmic City (for percussion quartet, pre-recorded audio and video)** ❖
Drake, Jamie - *The Blue Guitar** ❖
Drake, Jamie - *Urban Wildlife** ❖
Duggan, Mark - *John's Gone** ❖
Fitkin, Robert - *Hook*
Graiser, Brian - *Fearless Symmetries**
Hatzis, Christos - *In the Fire of Conflict** ❖
Hatzis, Christos - *Modulations** ❖
Ho, Alice - *TorQ Machine** ❖
Holló, Aurél - *beFORe JOHN 5 - José*
Lang, David - *The so-called laws of nature*
Lansky, Paul - *Threads*
Ligeti, György - *Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedüvel* (with mezzo-soprano)
Ligeti, Lukas - *Pattern Transformation*
Maimets, Riho - *Chorale Groove** ❖
Morphy, Daniel - *Spin Cycle** ❖
Morphy, Daniel - *Thrown from a Loop** ❖
Morphy, Daniel - *Dream Cycle I** ❖
Patterson, Erik - *Into the Light**
Power, Rob - *Cappahayden* ❖
Reich, Steve - *Drumming (Part I)*
Reich, Steve - *Mallet Quartet*
Reich, Steve - *Music for Pieces of Wood*

Rolfe, James - *Why You** ❖
Séjourné, Emmanuel - *Martian Tribes*
Shorley, Ken - *The Bright Side** ❖
Smith, Michael - *Djingle** ❖
Sollima, Giovanni - *Millenium Bug*
Southam, Ann - *Natural Resources (or what to do 'til the power comes on)*
Stanford, Jason - *Awakening Fire** ❖
Tam, Nancy - *Artisan of the Machine** ❖
Takemitsu, Toru (arr. Engelman) - *Will Tomorrow, I Wonder, Be Cloudy or Clear?*
Terpstra, Koos - *Music for Wooden Shoes*
Thornborrow, Christopher - *Brutal, Winter** ❖
Traditional (arr. J. Drake) - *Jerusalem**
Traditional (arr. TorQ) - *The History of the Snare Drum**
Vincent, Michael - *Jack** ❖
Vincent, Michael - *Tombeau for a Chinese General** ❖
Westlake, Nigel - *Omphalo Centric Lecture*
Whitacre, Eric (arr. Morphy and Duinker) - *Sleep**
White, Barbara - *Third Rule of Thumb*
Wijeratne, Dinuk - *Ersilia (solo movement from Invisible Cities)** ❖
Zivkovic, Nebosja - *Tak-Nara*

Quintet Repertoire:

Becker, Bob - *Unseen Child*
Campbell, Adam - *5th Wheel** ❖
Engelman, Robin - *Lullabye for Esme*
Hartenberger, Russell - *Telisi Odyssey*
Hartenberger, Russell - *The Invisible Proverb*
Lizée, Nicole - *Katana of Choice** ❖
Ormandy, Paul - *Dream Boat** ❖
Takemitsu, Toru (arr. Engelman) - *Will tomorrow, I wonder, be cloudy or clear?*

Concertos:

Gillingham, David - *Concerto for Four Percussion and Orchestra (or Wind Ensemble)*
Graiser, Brian - *Concerto No. 1 for Percussion Quartet and Wind Ensemble**
Kraft, William - *Concerto for Percussion Quartet and Orchestra (or Wind Ensemble)*
Wijeratne, Dinuk - *Invisible Cities** ❖

Percussion Quartet with Choir:

Dove, Jonathan - *The Passing of the Year*
Maimets, Riho - *Miserecordia** ❖
Orff, Carl - *Carmina Burana*
Whitacre, Eric - *Cloudburst*