



 **TORQ**
PERCUSSION QUARTET

The logo for TORQ Percussion Quartet features a stylized graphic of ten vertical bars of varying heights in black and red, resembling a bar chart or a percussion instrument's profile. To the right of this graphic, the word "TORQ" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with "TOR" in black and "Q" in red. Below "TORQ", the words "PERCUSSION QUARTET" are written in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font.

TORQ PERCUSSION QUARTET

Winners of the 2009 Mississauga Arts Council award for “Best Emerging Performing Arts Ensemble”, TorQ Percussion Quartet was formed by four Canadian percussionists looking to add new vitality to percussion repertoire and performance. Renowned for their engaging performances, members Richard Burrows, Adam Campbell, Jamie Drake and Daniel Morphy are committed to making new music accessible to audiences that

span generations and geography. TorQ has performed to critical acclaim and standing ovations across Canada and beyond, including performances at the International Percussion Quartet Festival (Luxembourg), Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, Indian River Festival (Prince Edward Island), Stratford Summer Music Festival, MusicFest Canada (Vancouver), Open Ears Contemporary Music Festival (Ontario), as part of the Jeunesses Musicales Canada Desjardins Concert tour and at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (Indianapolis). They have presented many Canadian and world premieres, including the premiere of David Gillingham’s *Concertino for Four Percussion and Orchestra* with the Mississauga Symphony. The 2011-2012 season will see them perform tours across Eastern Ontario, Quebec, and the Prairies, and perform in Canada and Germany with the Stuttgart Chamber Choir in collaboration with Soundstreams Canada.

TorQ is committed to commissioning new works for percussion quartet from both established and up-and-coming composers. A constantly evolving repertoire gives them the opportunity to combine the most recent commissions with better-known works by composers such as John Cage, Steve Reich and Nebojsa Zivkovic. In Fall 2011, TorQ will again serve as co-teachers with distinguished composer Christos Hatzis for the class “Composing for Percussion” at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto. This initial collaboration led to many new works, including Hatzis’ own *In the Fire of Conflict* for percussion quartet and pre-recorded audio. Commissions currently in progress include a concert-length multi-media and theatre collaboration with the Hamilton Children’s Choir and award-winning composer Eric Robertson, a work for percussion octet (co-commissioned with Fringe Percussion) by Michael Oesterle, and a collaboration with Toronto’s Evergreen Club Contemporary Gamelan.

TorQ has released two recordings on the independent label Bedoint Records. Their self-titled debut recording, a mixture of commissions, arrangements, improvisations and compositions by group members, was awarded 3.5/4 stars by Toronto Star music columnist John Terauds. *two + two*, released in Fall 2011 and featuring the music of Jason Stanford, Nebojsa Zivkovic, Christos Hatzis and John Cage, was described by former NEXUS member Robin Engelman as a “landmark recording [...] it demonstrates an artistry that puts TorQ squarely on par with the best percussion ensembles in the world.”

In addition to promoting new music, TorQ is also a strong believer in the importance of music education. In combination with Ontario based organization “Prologue for the Performing Arts”, TorQ performs approximately 70 shows per academic year to elementary and secondary school audiences across the province. They are also frequent educational collaborators with Soundstreams, and present masterclasses and workshops for various organizations across the country. All four members of TorQ are faculty members of the Durham Integrated Arts Camp, run by the Durham District School Board.

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, Lodom. 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, Regis Philbin, 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 the resident percussionist for both High Park Childrens' Choir and the Hamilton Childrens' Choir. His solo and chamber performances have included premieres by

Christos Hatzis, Elinor Armer and John Luther Adams. As a founding (and still occasional) 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 40 musicals, including Birdland Theatre's Dora-winning production of Sondheim's *Assassins*.

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

"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. On an evening filled with beautiful music and entertainment, TorQ showed yet another sold out theatre the unprecedented capability of the modern percussion ensemble, whose role in the world of chamber music is officially a force to be reckoned with."

- *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 committed to both composing original works and commissioning original interludes from contemporary Canadian composers.... Manitouwadge joined the long list of Canadian venues to end the musical journey on which TorQ had taken them by [giving the ensemble] a standing ovation."

- *Ontario News North*

"Using a conch shell, Bubba kegs, soup cans, gongs and garbage cans, this quartet proved they are highly talented and truly visionaries. They did a fantastic job creating moods and pleasing the large audience. It was a moving evening with many emotions."

- *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

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 Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, former assistant conductor of the Vancouver 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 / A Sound Mind* music blog

REPETOIRE

Selected current repertoire as of October 2011. 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.

Albright, William - *Take That*
Argenzio, Ed - *Stinkin' Garbage*
Bliss, Marilyn - *Aurora Borealis*
Brophy, Dan - *KI* ❖*
Burrows, Richard and Morphy, Daniel - *The Four Elements Suite* ❖*
Cage, John - *Third Construction*
Cagelosi, Casey - *Theatric No. 4*
Campbell, Adam - *El Mosquito Marrón* ❖*
Clorey, Monica - *Age 5 and a half* ❖*
Denburg, Elisha - *Sleepwalking* ❖*
Denburg, Elisha - *Dance of Joy and Whimsy* ❖*
Drake, Jamie - *Rhythmic City (for percussion quartet, pre-recorded audio and video)* ❖*
Duggan, Mark - *John's Gone* ❖*
Fitkin, Robert - *Hook*
Floisand, Christian - *Three Fantastical Things* ❖*
Francom, Tim - *On a Theme by Tears for Fears* ❖*
Graiser, Brian - *Fearless Symmetries**
Guechtal, Ruth - *Percussion Quartet No. 1* ❖*
Hatzis, Christos - *In the Fire of Conflict* ❖*
Ho, Alice - *TorQ Machine* ❖*
Holló, Aurél - *beFORe JOHN 5 - José*
James, Glenn - *Dream in Transit* ❖*
Lang, David - *The so-called laws of nature*
Lansky, Paul - *Threads*
Ligeti, György - *Síppal, dobbal, nádihegedüvel (with mezzo-soprano)*
Ligeti, Lukas - *Pattern Transformation*
Morphy, Daniel - *Spin Cycle* ❖*
Reich, Steve - *Drumming (Part I)*
Reich, Steve - *Music for Pieces of Wood*
Séjourné, Emmanuel - *Martian Tribes*
Shorley, Ken - *The Bright Side* ❖*
Skidmore, David - *Echoes*
Smith, Michael - *Djingle* ❖*
Sollima, Giovanni - *Millenium Bug*
Southam, Ann - *Natural Resources (or what to do 'til the power comes on)*
Stanford, Jason - *Quartet for Percussion and Digital Audio* ❖*
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*
Zivkovic, Nebosja - *Tak-Nara*

Quintet Repertoire:

Becker, Bob - *Unseen Child*
Engelman, Robin - *Lullabye for Esme*
Hartenberger, Russell - *Telisi Odyssey*
Hartenberger, Russell - *The Invisible Proverb*
Ormandy, Paul - *Dream Boat*
Takemitsu, Toru (arr. Engelman) - *Will tomorrow, I wonder, be cloudy or clear?*

Concertos:

Colgrass, Michael - *Déja Vu*
Gillingham, David - *Concerto for Four Percussion and Orchestra (or Wind Ensemble) (World Premiere of Orchestra Version February 2008)*
Kraft, William - *Concerto for Percussion Quartet and Orchestra (or Wind Ensemble)*

Commissions in Progress:

Graiser, Brian - Concerto for Percussion Quartet and Orchestra
Hatzis, Christos - Quartet for Percussion ❖
Oesterle, Michael - Octet for Percussion ❖ (co-commissioned with Fringe Percussion Group)
Robertson, Eric - *The Spiral Notebook* (large-scale work for Percussion Quartet, Children's Choir and Multimedia) ❖