

 **TORQ** PERCUSSION QUARTET

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2016

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE 2016 TORQ PERCUSSION SEMINAR COMPOSITION COMPETITION

TORONTO - The members of TorQ Percussion Quartet, one of Canada's leading chamber music ensembles, are happy to announce the winners of the fourth annual TPS Composition Competition.

"We were overwhelmed - in the best possible way - by the number and quality of entries that we received this year from our call for scores", said TorQ member Jamie Drake. "We received approximately 100 entries from across the globe, including North America, South America, Asia and Europe. The popularity of this contest has grown exponentially each year, and we are thrilled that so many composers are taking the time to compose interesting and imaginative new works for percussion ensemble. The quality and creativity of these entries was really outstanding. It certainly made picking the winners a difficult task."

Added TorQ member Adam Campbell, "Because of the challenge of picking winners from such an exceptional group of compositions, and because there were many that we loved that didn't end up being one of the three compositions selected, we will endeavor to perform many of these pieces on future concert series or tours, as well as showcase them to fellow percussionists and educators. When those opportunities arise, we'll be in touch with composers directly to help promote their music."

The winners of the 2016 TorQ Percussion Seminar Composition Competition are as follows:

- **1st Prize: David Jason Snow (USA), *Assault and Battery* (percussion trio)**
- **Runner up: Carlos Cordero (Venezuela), *Pray for []* (percussion quartet)**
- **Runner up: Monica Pearce (Canada), *Chain Maille* (percussion quartet)**

"Although each of the winning compositions have a different aesthetic, these pieces all displayed some of the things that we think make great percussion chamber music: a well crafted structure, interesting rhythmic and melodic ideas, and a creative use of various percussive timbres. We're especially grateful to these composers for their work, and look forward to performing these works at TPS2016 and in the future," said Drake.

ABOUT 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 throng of chamber percussion ensembles around the world."

ABOUT TORQ PERCUSSION SEMINAR: Now in its fifth year, TorQ Percussion Seminar is an opportunity for college-level percussionists to come together for an intense but rewarding week of rehearsals, masterclasses, creation and performance, under the direction of the **TorQ Percussion Quartet**. Operated in association with Stratford Summer Music in beautiful Stratford, Ontario, Canada, TPS2016 will culminate with a series of public performances as part of the festival, and will feature two special guest faculty this year: **percussionist Beverley Johnston** and **composer Christos Hatzis**.

*** PLEASE FORWARD TO ALL RELEVANT OUTLETS ***