

Percussion Adjudicator – Richard Burrows

Richard Burrows is a distinguished Canadian percussionist celebrated for his dynamic performances and innovative approach to contemporary classical music. With a career spanning more than two decades, he has established himself as a leading figure in the percussion community, recognized for his versatility, technical precision, and dedication to advancing the art form.

Burrows began his musical journey at a young age and went on to earn two master's degrees from the University of Toronto in percussion performance and music education. He is now the Director of Percussion for the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University.

He is a founding member of TorQ Percussion Quartet, an internationally acclaimed ensemble known for its innovative programming, engaging performances, and strong commitment to education and outreach. Since forming in 2004, TorQ has toured widely across North America and Europe, performing at major festivals and venues. The ensemble has collaborated with leading orchestras including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, and has released several recordings, including projects with the legendary percussion ensemble Nexus and the Elora Singers.

In addition to his ensemble work, Burrows is an active soloist who has premiered numerous works by leading composers, expanding the percussion repertoire. He is also the Artistic Director of the Open Ears Festival, where he helps present adventurous sound and innovative music. A dedicated educator and advocate for music education, Burrows regularly leads workshops, masterclasses, and community programs that inspire the next generation of musicians.