

11 November 2013

Percussion strikes a chord at The Substation

Melbourne's own music mavericks [Speak Percussion](#) join forces with contemporary Brisbane ensemble [Topology](#) to present a remarkable Australian collection of works tackling a range of contemporary issues.

[COMMON GROUND](#) explores the intersection of musical, theatrical and political ideas between two of Australia's new-music powerhouses, Melbourne's Speak Percussion and Brisbane's Topology. Themes ranging from the Cuban Missile Crisis, Australiana and club culture are explored across two distinct sets. All the works on the program are either composed by the ensembles or have been written specially for them by leading Australian composers. The concert will culminate with the two groups combining to perform as a mini-orchestra in a new realization of a Topology work featuring video projection and audio samples.

Coupled with the performance, Speak Percussion will present **free workshops for local schools** exploring contemporary Australian percussion music.

Described by the New York Times as “**virtuosic and adventurous**” Speak Percussion is a flexible line-up of Australia's finest creative percussionists that has a 13-year history of commissioning, performing and creating innovative new work. After pioneering performances of [The Black of the Star](#) at the recent **Melbourne Festival**, and successes at Perth's biennial [Totally Huge New Music Festival](#), **Lucerne Festival** (Switzerland) and Berlin Festival's [MaerzMusik](#) (Germany), Speak Percussion returns to The Substation with a bold program of Melbourne premieres.



COMMON GROUND

Tuesday 26 November 2013, 7:30pm
The Substation, 1 Market Street, Newport
Tickets \$20 / \$15 through [Trybooking](#)
Presented by Big West Festival

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

Monday 25 November, 11am & 1pm
The Substation, 1 Market Street, Newport
Free entry, bookings essential
Presented by The Substation

For further information contact and press interviews contact Eugene Ughetti on 0401 079 173 or speak@speakpercussion.com

For bookings and further information for the free school workshops contact Jo Daniell, Education Officer at The Substation on 9391 1110 or jo.daniell@thesubstation.org.au

ABOUT SPEAK PERCUSSION

***virtuosic and adventurous* The New York Times**

Speak Percussion is a flexible line-up of Australia's finest creative percussionists that has a 13-year history of commissioning, performing and creating innovative new work. Ranging from solo concerts to massed sound events, Speak Percussion's work is presented throughout the world in concert halls, bars, galleries and site-specific locations.

Speak Percussion regularly collaborates with a diverse range of artists in creating unique hybrid projects. Speak has explored the intersection between percussion and architecture, gastronomy, installation, instrument building, astronomy and dance.

Speak Percussion's recent performances have included appearances at MONA FOMA (Hobart), MaerzMusik (Berlin), SPOR Festival (Denmark), Batteries Festival IV (Geneva), Red Gate Gallery (China), Roulette (New York), ODC Dance Commons (San Francisco), Melbourne Festival, Metropolis New Music Festival, Next Wave Festival and the Totally Huge New Music Festival (Perth).

Speak's *breathhtakingly impressive* (The West Australian) work has won them several accolades including APRA/AMCOS & AMC Victorian Award for Excellence by an Organisation for its annual program and the 2012 Melbourne Fringe Festival Best Music Award for its AUTOMATION project. Speak was also nominated for Outstanding Alternative & Hybrid Performance at the Green Room Awards for *The Box*. Speak Percussion commissioned and premiered Anthony Pateras's *Flesh and Ghost*, which was in 2011 chosen by ABC Classic FM as the best recorded work to represent Australia at the International Rostrum of Composers in Vienna.

Speak Percussion works with many of the world's leading composers, including Steve Reich (USA), Liza Lim (AUS), Anthony Pateras (AUS), Thomas Meadowcroft (AUS) and Fritz Hauser (CH). The group also champions Australian music with over 80 works commissioned by Australian composers, several of which have made their way into the percussion canon and programmed worldwide.

Speak is passionate about supporting the next generation of musicians and composers through intelligent education programs. Speak has an annual Emerging Artists Program in which nurtures upcoming talent in the field of new & improvised music through workshops, performance experience and tuition by Speak and its international guest lecturers.



www.speakpercussion.com

MEDIA RELEASE



ABOUT TOPOLOGY

Topology, Australia's most surprising music organisation, creates original work across many genre boundaries. Ensemble-in-residence at the Brisbane Powerhouse and Key Organization of Australia Council for the Arts and Arts Queensland, their full-bodied energy brings out the full potential of five musicians comprising saxophone, strings and piano.

Since their beginning in 1997, Topology has created many evening-length works and an award-winning concert series. Topology's productions bring together a unique mix of music and theatre through thoughtful staging and beautiful lighting. They are famous for the breadth and depth of their collaborations. Undaunted by stylistic barriers, the quintet has created stunning new work with partners in theatre (Geoffrey Rush, Neil Armfield), classical music (the Brodsky Quartet, the Southern Cross Soloists), contemporary art music (Terry Riley, TaikOz), ballet (the Queensland Ballet), contemporary jazz (Misinterprotato, Loops), popular songwriting (Kate Miller-Heidke, Katie Noonan), comedy (the Kransky Sisters, Gerry Connolly), Asian music (Dheeraj Shrestha, TaikOz, Tony Prabowo, Ubiet) and indigenous Australian music (William Barton).

The band has toured most of Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Canada, India, Singapore, and Indonesia. Festivals featuring Topology include the Ghent Festival of Flanders, Olympics Arts Festival, ISCM World New Music Days, Salihara Festival, Singapore Arts Festival, Castlemaine Festival, Brisbane Festival, Sydney Spring Festival, Queensland Music Festival, Brisbane International Film Festival, World Theatre Festival in Brisbane, Adelaide Festival and Ozfest in India.



Topology works with many leading international composers, including those from Canada (Tim Brady), the UK (Andrew Poppy, Michael Nyman, Jeremy Peyton Jones), the US (Steve Reich, Terry Riley, John Zorn, William Duckworth, Carl Stone, Paul Drescher) and with many Australian composers (though their focus is original music).

www.topologymusic.com