

LYDIAN

STRING QUARTET

COMPOSER STEVEN SNOWDEN WINS 2015 LYDIAN STRING QUARTET COMMISSION PRIZE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Lydian String Quartet and Brandeis University are proud to announce the winner of their 2015 Lydian String Quartet Commission Prize. Steven Snowden of Austin Texas has been commissioned to compose a new quartet for the Lydian Quartet, to be premiered in the spring of 2016 at Brandeis University. Snowden was chosen from an incredibly accomplished pool of composer applicants. In addition to awarding the commission to Steven Snowden, composers David Liptak, Lansing McLoskey and Andrew Waggoner have been awarded honorable mention.

Steven Snowden Bio

Snowden received degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and at the University of Texas at Austin, where he earned a DMA in composition, with a certificate in Electronic Music. He has recently received awards and fellowships from the Aspen Music Festival, the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble, the Austin Critics' Table, Copland House, ISCM World Music Days, New Music USA, IC Hong Kong, The Mizzou New Music International Composers Festival, Future Places Portugal, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the ASCAP Morton Gould Awards among others. He was also the recipient of a 2012-2013 Fulbright Grant to Portugal. In 2013-2014 he was a visiting professor and composer in residence at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and currently works as a freelance composer and concert presenter in Austin, Texas. More information about Steven Snowden can be found at: <http://www.stevensnowden.com>.

Lydian Quartet Bio

From its beginning in 1980, the Lydian Quartet has embraced the full range of string quartet repertory with curiosity, virtuosity, and dedication to the highest artistic ideals of music making. Winners of the Naumburg Award for chamber music, the Lydian String Quartet has demonstrated *"a precision and involvement marking them as among the world's best quartets"* (Chicago Sun-Times). Residing at Brandeis University, in Waltham, Massachusetts, the Lydians continue to offer compelling, superbly integrated, and thoughtful yet dramatic performances of the quartet literature, from the masterpieces of the classical, romantic, and modern eras to neglected works from the twentieth century to the remarkable work being done by today's most innovative composers.

The Lydian String Quartet has long championed the works of living composers. The goal of the Lydian String Quartet Commission Prize is to encourage creativity and enhance the string quartet literature at the highest level of composition. The previous commission competition resulted in the creation of Kurt Rohde's string quartet, *treatises for an unrecovered past*.

More information about the Lydian Quartet and the commission prize can be found at: www.lydianquartet.com.

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