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Queen - Program Note

Queen was written in the spring of 2017 in New Haven, CT, for a consortium of twenty percussionists led by Balanced Structure (Kathryn Irwin & Emily Strachan).

With this work, I tried to ask what exactly is a queen and what it means to be a queen. Or perhaps more properly, who is a queen and who knows what it takes to be a queen.

I think these could be considered routine questions for those that have ever felt underestimated, and perhaps one approach to answering these possibly unanswerable questions would be to consider that queens are everywhere and all around us, and can often come from unexpected places.

Thus in this piece, I hope to have a queen or perhaps even multiple queens emerge out of unexpected musical material.