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The Stone Stour man gives us his tips on studio dates



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New percussive delights, including triangles!

Matt Halpern beat such impressive names as Michael Miley, Neil Peart and Joey Jordison to be crowned champ

“I wouldn’t play the way I play today if it weren’t for a large majority of the drummers in the Cup. I owe them a big thank you. It was a humbling experience”



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Matt Halpern is *Rhythm's* 'World Champion' drummer

HALPERN IS THE CHAMP

Periphery man speaks out on huge online fan vote

■ “I was kept in the loop by my fans,” says Matt Halpern on his recent triumph in the *Rhythm* Drummer’s World Cup. “I’d wake up to Twitter shout-outs or congratulatory Facebook messages. It was really cool. I was totally blown away by the support I was receiving. In the pictures online, there was a trophy... is there a real trophy [laughs]?”

The tournament at MusicRadar.com/Rhythm pitted well known names against some new ones and different genres of music against each other. More of a good natured fan-fest than a strict ‘best of’ poll, each round saw hotly-contested matches decided by you, *Rhythm's* readers. Many rounds yielded surprising results. Undoubtedly, the most shocking was the triumphant march of Periphery’s Matt Halpern. And it seems Matt’s army of fans kept him up to speed.

“I found out I was in the running one morning. A drummer friend of mine had tagged me in a Facebook post, wishing me congratulations for being in the competition. It was a total shock to see my name in there

with so many other incredible players!”

The competition saw Matt slowly, methodically, make his way to the final round. After qualifying easily from the first round, Matt’s Last 16 contest found him getting past Michael Miley of Rival Sons. Then, Matt went up against fan favourite Joey Jordison of Slipknot. Matt pulled off that upset only to go up against another heavyweight, Mike Portnoy. Shockingly, Matt snuck by Mike only to face the mighty Neil Peart in the Final. Pulling off what could be considered a major underdog victory, Matt beat out Rush’s sonic scribe to take the Cup.

Turning to the who’s-who of drum icons that he dispatched on his way to the win, Matt said: “I’m very familiar with all of the drummers in the Cup. It’s such an honour to be listed amongst those guys. So many of those drummers have inspired my playing, it was surreal to be considered a peer with them. I wouldn’t play the way I play today if it weren’t for a large majority of the drummers in the Cup. I owe them a big thank you! It was a humbling experience and I have nothing but admiration and respect for everyone who was in the poll.”

And how will he be following up his World Cup win? By hitting the road with Periphery, of course. “We head to Australia in February to play the Soundwave Festival. Then we hop on a North American tour as direct support for the Deftones. It’s a dream come true! After that, I can’t say yet. We have some awesome stuff in the works, but I gotta keep it under wraps for now!” **R**

DRUMMER'S WORLD CUP

To see just how *Rhythm's* online Drummer's World Cup played out, head on to rhythmmagazine.co.uk. There you'll find the full list of results and find out exactly how Matt was crowned champion.