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|| varsity vocals *presents:*

THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF HIGH SCHOOL

A CAPPELLA FINALS

April 26, 2019



#ICHSA
THE TOWN HALL

About Tonight's Concert

The performance order was determined by random draw a few weeks ago and is listed in this program. Tonight's performers will be evaluated on elements of their vocal and visual performance, which carry numerical weight. The highest and lowest score from the individual judges will be dropped for each group. Our judges may recognize exceptional performances with special awards as they see fit.

Because each group only has 12 minutes to perform, we ask you to keep your applause to an enthusiastic minimum between songs. Please feel welcome to applaud as much as you want after each group has finished its set. There will be a 15-minute intermission. After the final group has performed, our guest performers Sam Creighton and Will Jay will entertain you while the scores are tabulated.

Video cameras, phones, and non-flash photography for personal use are permitted during the concert, so long as you do not disrupt our performers or other patrons. Our talented professional photographer, Joe Martinez, will be making high-resolution images available for purchase in a few weeks. Please follow Varsity Vocals on our social media channels for updates.

About Varsity Vocals

Since 1996, we have encouraged students worldwide to sing a cappella throughout their lives. Our programs include the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), the International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA), and the International Championship of A Cappella Open (The Open), which debuted in 2017 and encourages competitors to bring together groups of any age, experience level, or origin to form a cappella "dream teams" and compete for a \$25,000 cash prize to help jump start their professional career. We also produce the annual Best of College A Cappella (BOCA) and Best of High School A Cappella (BOHSA) compilation albums.

Our a cappella competitions give top-notch a cappella groups the opportunity to showcase their talents for an international audience and to take home valuable feedback from our qualified judges. This year, competing groups will appear in venues all around the world, offering their energetic musical performances for your enjoyment.



2019 International Championship of High School A Cappella Finals

Tonight's Competitors: *(in performance order)*

HIGHLANDS VOICES | ICHSA Mid-Atlantic Champion
Northern Highlands Regional High School, Allendale, NJ

FREE TO BREATHE | ICHSA West Champion
Sunset High School, Portland, OR

THE THURSDAYS | ICHSA Northeast Champion
Chelmsford High School, Chelmsford, MA

INTONENATION | ICHSA South Champion
New Manchester High School, Douglasville, GA

SKYLINE BLUES | ICHSA Great Lakes Champion
Skyline High School, Ann Arbor, MI

PFC | ICHSA Southwest Champion
MacArthur High School, San Antonio, TX

MADISON AVENUE | ICHSA Wild Card Champion
James Madison High School, San Antonio, TX

KNIGHT CLUB | ICHSA Midwest Champion
Oak Creek High School, Oak Creek, WI

EVOLVE | ICHSA Wild Card Runner-Up
Chesapeake High School, Pasadena, MD

Our Judges

SHAMS AHMED
ED BOYER
ABBEY JANES
HANNAH JULIANO
DR. JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ

Our Hosts

COURTNEY JENSEN
COOPER KITCHING

Special Guest Performance

SAM CREIGHTON & WILL JAY

varsity vocals

Friday, April 26, 2019

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2019 International Championship of High School A Cappella Finals!

As Varsity Vocals wraps up its 23rd season of live student a cappella tournaments, our enthusiasm for the art of contemporary a cappella is greater than ever. Each year, our competitors appear before crowds of thousands in venues across the country, offering an array of creative and energetic performances for your enjoyment. They also earn valuable feedback from our experienced judges.

This year saw another significant leap in both the quantity of high school a cappella groups competing in the ICHSA and the quality of their performances. With over 225 groups competing this year and many performing at or above the level of collegiate groups, it seems that high school a cappella has truly arrived!

Tonight's competitors have endured a long and rigorous competition season and have emerged as the best high school groups in their respective regions. Now, they have the coveted opportunity to compete for the title of 2019 ICHSA Champion!

Committed to promoting our singers and in awe of their talent, we look forward to what is certain to be a memorable evening.

Thank you for joining us!

Sincerely,



Amanda Newman
Executive Director

We're social! Follow us @varsityvocals on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat, and join the conversation using **#ICHSA**.



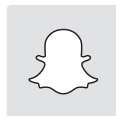
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Our Hosts

COURTNEY JENSEN, who appeared on "The Sing-Off" Season 2 with The Backbeats, is a singer, beatboxer, and the ICCA Southwest Producer. She workshops with a cappella groups around the country, and has published a beatboxing tutorial called "Breaking Down the Beats."

COOPER KITCHING began his journey in the a cappella community as a member of The Accidentals, an award-winning all-male a cappella group at the University of Georgia in Athens. During his time with The Accidentals, they represented the South region at the ICCA Finals, placing 3rd overall and receiving two special awards. Cooper has also had a hand in the production of many ICCA events.

Our Staff

Amanda Newman

Executive Director

Sara Yood

Senior Producer

Lucy Jacobs

*The Open Director
ICCA West Producer*

Erica Tackett

Director of Marketing & Social Strategy

Emily Flanders

*Director of Adjudication
ICCA Great Lakes Producer*

Helena Benthall

ICCA United Kingdom Producer

Holli Kitching

ICCA Mid-Atlantic Producer

Evan Powers

ICHSA South Producer

Elise Hackl

*ICHSA Midwest, Southwest,
& Great Lakes Producer*

Jillian Kimberlin

ICHSA Mid-Atlantic Producer

David Rabizadeh

ICCA Director

Andrea Poole

ICHSA Director

Andrew Poole

Director of Digital Media

Emily Sucher

Director of Publications

Virginia DeMoss

Album Production Coordinator

Leah Alrutz

ICCA Midwest Producer

Holly Hayes

ICCA Northeast Producer

Lindsay Howerton-Hastings

ICCA South Producer

Courtney Jensen

ICCA Southwest Producer

Arvin Zabalerio

ICCA Central Producer

Matt Shirer

ICHSA West Producer

Nicole Kohlweiss

ICHSA Northeast Producer

Varsity Vocals would like to thank: The Town Hall staff; Ben Bram and Lili Fuller for creating our closing number; our photographers Joe Martinez and Jake Young; our guest performers Sam Creighton and Will Jay; our judges, hosts, volunteers, partners, competitors, and producers; and you, the audience, for supporting Varsity Vocals programming and these students.

HANNAH JULIANO attended Berklee College of Music and led its co-ed group, Pitch Slapped, to ICCA Finals two years in a row. The group was crowned ICCA champion its second year and appeared on season 2 of NBC's "The Sing-Off." After college, Hannah became a member of Musae, a professional all-female frontier blazer, and Delilah, the all-female powerhouse group from season 3 of "The Sing-Off." Originally from Southern California, she has performed all around the world, taught workshops and masterclasses, and arranged for groups and individuals around the country. Her clients include Leslie Odom Jr., Eden Espinosa, Joshua Henry, Karen Olivo, Renee Elise Goldsberry, Ledisi, Josh Groban, Ingrid Michaelson, The Beverly Belles, and VoicePlay, among others. She toured for two years with Deke Sharon's a cappella show, "Vocalosity," as a performer and music director, was a soloist at Carnegie Hall for the "Total Vocal" show, and is a performer in the Christmas Spectacular featuring the Radio City Rockettes. She is a commercial session vocalist working in New York City, singing on ads for Pepsi, Adidas, Mazda, Samsung, and others. She is also a newlywed, snagging Bryant Vance, bass man extreme, who sings for Rockapella!

DR. JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ maintains an active career in musical theatre, concert, and opera, having sung over 80 roles to date. Most recently, he starred alongside Emmy nominee Tituss Burgess ("Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt") in Sondheim's "Into the Woods" at the Adrienne Arsht Center. A two-time winner of The American Prize in Voice, Justin recently made his Chicago Symphony Center debut. In addition to his active performance career, Justin serves as Chair of Vocal Studies at Millikin University and Executive Director of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival. His current and former students have performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, on national tours, in regional theaters and opera houses, on national television (including season 15 of "The Voice"), and in bands touring throughout the United States. In great demand for his workshops and master classes on commercial and musical theatre voice, he has presented at national and regional conferences for the National Opera Association, National Association of Teachers of Singing, Southeastern Theatre Conference, and at higher education institutions across the country. Learn more at www.justinjohnmoniz.com. Follow him on Instagram @jj_moniz.

Tonight's Guest Performers

SAM CREIGHTON Sam Creighton is a singer/songwriter currently residing in Los Angeles, Calif. Originally from Boston, Mass., she made the trek west after her experience with collegiate a cappella gave her the confidence to pursue a professional music career! In college, she was in The Nor'easters and won several awards, including Outstanding Soloist in the ICCA and multiple CARA awards. The group was crowned ICCA Champions in 2013, and went on to be featured on Pop TV's "Sing It On." Since her a cappella days, Sam has been independently funding and releasing her original music, including her most recent single, "After Midnight." Sam is one of Varsity Vocals' first alumni competitors to be formally represented by Glowup Artist Management, a Varsity Vocals subsidiary focused on helping a cappella singers launch their professional music careers. Sam's accompanist and songwriting collaborator, **WILL JAY**, is also based in Los Angeles and is currently working on his debut album. His original songs have been streamed over 10 million times and he recently co-wrote Grace Vanderwaal's latest single "Hideaway" for the Paramount film "Wonder Park."

Tonight's Competitors

HIGHLANDS VOICES – ICHSA Mid-Atlantic Champion | @highlandsvoices
Highlands Voices is from Northern Highlands Regional High School in Allendale, N.J. "The Voices," as they are called around the school, were featured on the Lifetime show, "Pitch Slapped." They were selected to compete in the 2018 National A Cappella Convention in Memphis, Tenn., where they came in 3rd place. They were the winners of the first-ever National A Cappella Convention (NACC) in 2015, the ICHSA National Champions in 2014, and ICHSA Mid-Atlantic Champions in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016. They have performed workshops for NAFME, NJMEA, AEA, ACDA, and Bergen Teen Arts. The group also hosts the annual Highlands A Cappella Festival, which attracts some of the biggest a cappella coaches in the world as instructors. Follow them on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube @highlandsvoices.

FREE TO BREATHE – ICHSA West Champion

Free to Breathe, from Sunset High School in Portland, Ore., loves long walks on the beach, holding hands around the campfire, watching rom coms starring Drew Barrymore and Adam Sandler, and stargazing while trespassing on private farms. Oh...and Free to Breathe also loves to sing.

THE THURSDAYS – ICHSA Northeast Champion

 | @chsthursdays

The Thursdays is Chelmsford High School's co-ed a cappella group. They maintain an active performance schedule in their local community and beyond. They represented the Northeast region at ICHSA Finals in 2017 and 2018, and they appeared on two seasons of WGBH's "Sing That Thing," earning a winning title in 2018. They are excited to take part in ICHSA Finals once again. Defying all expectations, The Thursdays rehearse on Tuesdays.

INTONENATION – ICHSA South Champion

 | @InToneNation_NM

InToneNation is the award-winning contemporary a cappella group from New Manchester High School in Douglasville Ga. They sing a variety of music, from pop to gospel to R&B to musical theatre. They are currently working on their debut album, *The Beginning*.

SKYLINE BLUES – ICHSA Great Lakes Champion

 | @AASkylineBlues

Skyline Blues is a select co-ed a cappella ensemble composed of freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior choir students. Founded in 2008, the group is under the direction of Lindsay Ciechanski and Austin Terris. They meet after school twice a week and participate in a number of performances and competitions each year, including MSVMA Solo and Ensemble. Last year, they earned 2nd place at the Great Lakes Semifinal and 3rd in the Wild Card Round. They are excited to be competing at ICHSA Finals!

Our Judges

PFC – ICHSA Southwest Champion | @MacArthurPFC

PFC is from MacArthur High School in San Antonio. Under the direction of Matt Woodward and Anna Gann, PFC is a frequent ICHSA competitor. They took a year off from competition last year, but are happy to be back! In November, they competed at Sing! Texas and placed 3rd. In January, they opened for Dcappella at the Majestic Theater. In February, they professionally recorded a song and music video that will be out later this spring. PFC is grateful for this opportunity to share their narrative of self-reflection, recovery, and hope.

MADISON AVENUE – ICHSA Wild Card Champion | @JMHSChoir

Madison Avenue is the best of the best at James Madison High School. These 18 fine performers represent their school throughout the city of San Antonio with great pride and extraordinary talent. They have been featured on local newscasts, private parties, and even had the pleasure of opening for the legendary 80s Rock band, Foreigner, at the Majestic Theatre. In 2016, Madison Avenue was chosen as the winner of the Margaret Tobin FAME award. Personally chosen by Deke Sharon to open for the “Vocalosity” tour in San Antonio, Madison Avenue staked their claim on the Tobin Center stage as one of the most popular high school a cappella groups in San Antonio.

KNIGHT CLUB – ICHSA Midwest Champion | @ochsknightclub

Knight Club from Oak Creek High School is a family of 18 members who share a passion for singing and portraying stories through music. This year’s set revolves around the emotions associated with the end of a relationship and heartbreak. This set has brought Knight Club closer together, and they hope to take you on an emotional and empowering journey. They are excited to perform it for you on the ICHSA Finals stage!

EVOLVE – ICHSA Wild Card Runner-Up | @CHS_Choral

Evolve from Chesapeake High School in Pasadena, Md. was founded in 2016 by alumni Michael Brisentine. Last year, Evolve was invited to perform with Deke Sharon at his DCINY “Total Vocal” Experience up in New York City, where they were selected to perform a song on the Lincoln Center stage in front of 3,000 people! Evolve likes to have quite a bit of fun, and sometimes their weekly check-ins take up about half the rehearsal. Hopefully none of you notice that.

SHAMS AHMED is an arranger, music director, and producer based in Los Angeles, Calif. Shams spends his time bringing vocal music projects to life. Earlier in his career, he attended Northeastern University in Boston, Mass., where he studied finance and Mandarin while directing collegiate a cappella heavyhitters, The Nor’easters. During his tenure, the group picked up countless compilation placements and CARAs and Shams earned numerous personal arranging awards. He also founded the collegiate female powerhouse, Pitch, Please! Shams’ work has been hugely influential in the contemporary a cappella sphere, shaping the way many scholastic groups sound today. More recently, Shams was featured alongside The Nor’easters in Season 1 of POP TV’s reality docu-series, “Sing It On,” and can be seen coaching groups on Season 2. He is also a director and a teacher of musicianship and arranging at A Cappella Academy, a Los Angeles-based summer camp founded by Avi Kaplan, formerly of Pentatonix. Shams serves as a regular judge at ICCA, ICHSA, and CASA events all over the country. Most recently, Shams launched a female pop/R&B vocal group called Citizen Queen along with Scott Hoying, Ben Bram, and Jonathan Kalter. Within three months of its existence, the group already has over 200k subscribers and 10 million views on YouTube. The four are also poised to launch a kids’ a cappella brand called Acapop! later in 2019. Follow @theonlyshamsyouknow.

ED BOYER is a producer, engineer, and arranger whose credits include the “Pitch Perfect” film series, “Glee,” “The Sing-Off,” Pentatonix, and Straight No Chaser, among others. In addition to countless CARAs, his work has contributed to six Grammy nominations and three wins, two American Music Awards, two Emmy nominations, 11 Billboard Top 10 albums, 17 Hot 100 Singles, as well as 11 gold and four platinum RIAA-certified records.

ABBEY JANES, a native Texan at heart, sings with and arranges for Duwende. A four-time CARA winner, Duwende has performed at the Java Jazz Festival in Jakarta, the United Nations Ambassadors Ball, and a World AIDS Day Event at the Royal Theatre Carré in Amsterdam. In addition to television appearances on NBC and Fox, Duwende has been a featured performer at several Sundance Film Festivals, and has given a TEDxTalk for Johnson and Johnson. Abbey enjoys being involved as a clinician and judge at scholastic a cappella conferences and competitions and she is the bookkeeper for the Women’s A Cappella Association (WACA). While Abbey was a music major at Franklin and Marshall College, she sang in the mixed group, The Poor Richards. She eventually became the music director and ended up marrying the music director from her freshman year!