



THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF COLLEGIATE

A CAPPELLA FINALS

April 27, 2024



#ICCA

THE TOWN HALL

2024 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Finals

Tonight's Competitors:

BISCAYDENCE | ICCA South Champion

University of Miami

BLOOM | ICCA Southwest Champion

Utah Valley University

CAPITAL GREEN | ICCA Great Lakes Champion

Michigan State University

DACADENCE | ICCA Mid-Atlantic Champion

University of Maryland

FURMATA | ICCA West Champion

University of Washington

NO COMMENT | ICCA Wild Card Champion

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

NORTHERN LIGHTS | ICCA United Kingdom Champion

Durham University

ON THAT NOTE | ICCA Central Champion

Toronto Metropolitan University

THE OHIO STATE OF MIND | ICCA Midwest Champion

The Ohio State University

UPPER STRUCTURE | ICCA Northeast Champion

Northeastern University

Our Judges

SHAMS AHMED

DIANA GALEANO

SHANNON MCNULTY

JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ

LEE STOVALL

Our Host

COURTNEY JENSEN

Special Guest Performers

The 2024 ICHSA Champion and Runners-Up

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2024 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Finals! As Varsity Vocals wraps up its 28th season presenting the best student groups on stage and in the studio, our enthusiasm for the art of a cappella is greater than ever. Our tournaments have grown from a handful of events to the massive showcases they are today, featuring more than 650 groups and over 10,000 singers at 85 events across North America and the United Kingdom.

Our tournament inspired the hit movie “Pitch Perfect,” based on the nonfiction book documenting the true story of rival groups competing in our very own ICCA. The “Pitch Perfect” franchise remains the highest-grossing musical series of all time. A dozen years after its release, we now have competitors who grew up watching “Pitch Perfect” and dreamed of participating in the real thing. Now here they are in New York City at ICCA Finals!

Despite the incredible growth and mainstream popularity we've enjoyed, our focus remains on the promotion and development of the talent that crosses our stage. We believe competition fosters growth, as groups work together toward a specific goal and cultivate lifelong skills and relationships. We provide insightful feedback from our highly qualified judges – but more importantly, our singers get to connect with a larger audience from across the country, learning from their peers and finding inspiration in other groups.

We are humbled more than ever to set the stage for so much magic. It is a true privilege to present tonight's Finals, representing the very best there is in student a cappella. Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Amanda Newman'.

Amanda Newman
Executive Director

We're social! Follow us @varsityvocals on Instagram and Facebook.
Join the conversation using **#ICCA**

  @varsityvocals

Tonight's Competitors

BISCAYDENCE | @biscaydence

BisCaydence is an award-winning a cappella group from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Fla. Established in 2011, this group features some of the University of Miami's top vocal talent and embodies the spirit of harmonic cohesiveness and school pride through music made only from human voices. They take pride in the work they do and the community they share. BisCaydence hopes to share their passion for music with the world.

BLOOM | @bloomacappella

Bloom was created by Jerick Rose and Sicily Poulter in 2021 and is currently Utah Valley University's only a cappella group! Bloom's goal is to create an inclusive and safe environment for their group members and audiences. During Bloom's first year as a group on campus, they collaborated with other clubs to put on their first big showcase of original and well-known arrangements. While performances throughout the year were fun, they spent most of their time performing nostalgic original arrangements for their TikTok followers, including the "Wizards of Waverly Place" theme song and songs from Nickelodeon's hit TV show "Victorious." Their following grew and brought new members in as well, so they wanted to challenge the group even more and began their ICCA journey in 2022. At their first-ever ICCA appearance in Denver, they won the Quarterfinal and took home awards for Outstanding Soloist, and Outstanding Arrangement. They advanced to the Semifinal where they took home another Outstanding Soloist award. Bloom is excited to share what they learned from their first year competing and showcase their 2024 set on the ICCA Finals stage!

CAPITAL GREEN | @msucapitalgreen

Capital Green A Cappella is Michigan State University's oldest all-gender a cappella group this side of the Red Cedar River. Known on and off the stage for their infectious energy and tight-knit friendships, Cap Green fully embraces their 25-year legacy. In a group that dedicates several weekly rehearsals to perfecting their harmonies, the phrase "getting sick of each other" simply doesn't apply. In fact, an enduring group inside joke suggests they rehearse seven days a week, reflecting just how close they are outside of their formal practice sessions. This dedication to their community and musicianship makes them stand out onstage. If you like what you hear tonight, they encourage you to follow them on Instagram and stream their brand-new EP, *Vitality*, on all streaming platforms.

DACADENCE | @dacadence_umd

DaCadence is the University of Maryland's elite all-gender a cappella team. This dynamic vocal ensemble prides itself on nurturing the musical talents of its members while entertaining audiences in the University of Maryland community and surrounding areas. DaCadence is dedicated to the pursuit of musical mastery. Through rigorous rehearsals, innovative arrangements, and a collaborative spirit, this talented team of singers continually strives to push the boundaries of a cappella performance. They believe music has the power to transcend language and cultural barriers and they harness that power to create unforgettable musical experiences. In the 2023 ICCA, DaCadence won first place at their Semifinal and went on to represent the Mid-Atlantic at Finals in New York City where they won Outstanding Vocal Percussion. Besides competing, they perform at various concerts, fundraisers, and gigs around the DMV, record and produce albums, and film music videos. (cont.)

(cont'd) Although they take their music seriously, they are also DaFam, a super close group of friends. They love to hang out at lunches, rehearsals, and semester retreats. They aim to ignite a love for a cappella music, leaving a lasting impact on their community and empowering future generations of singers.

FURMATA | @furmataacappella

Furmata is the University of Washington's premier, all-gender a cappella group. They emphasize excellence, passion, energy, dedication, and inclusivity in all their endeavors. Furmata was the ICCA 2023 West Quarterfinal Champion and ICCA 2022 West Quarterfinal Runner-Up. They have been honored with awards such as Outstanding Arrangement and Outstanding Soloist over the last several years.

NO COMMENT | @uiucnocomment

No Comment is a 14-member, all-gender a cappella group hailing from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This group of best friends shares a passion for creating music together. NoCo has been wowing audiences for two decades and has no intention of slowing down any time soon. They reached ICCA Finals in 2013 and have been perennial Semifinalists ever since, releasing multiple studio albums, EPs, and singles along the way. With new projects and releases on the horizon, NoCo is sure to leave you wanting more!

NORTHERN LIGHTS | @nlacappella

Northern Lights is a mixed group of talented and passionate performers from Durham University. Having competed in the ICCA since 2015, the group's 10th generation secured their first win at the United Kingdom Semifinals in Wimbledon last year and have since produced a sell-out Fringe show and released their debut album, *Meet Me in the Sky*. Now in their 11th iteration with six new members, Northern Lights feels as strong as ever and is proud to maintain its ethos, "One entity, One voice."

ON THAT NOTE | @otn.acappella

On That Note is Toronto Metropolitan University's award-winning a cappella group for women and queer performers! Founded in 2020, On That Note boasts a unique sound, an outside-the-box artistic vision, and a repertoire of songs originally performed by women and queer artists. This vibrant group bonds over a shared love for singing and one another, and a passion for creating unique sets that deliver powerful messages. During the group's in-person ICCA debut in 2023, On That Note were ICCA Central Champions and advanced to Finals with a powerful, narrative-driven set that explored the complexities of generational trauma and the unwavering spirit of resilience. They are proud to carry on their legacy of dedication and heart to the 2024 ICCA Finals!

THE OHIO STATE OF MIND | @OSMacappella

Originally founded in 2010, The Ohio State of Mind is The Ohio State University's premier all-gender a cappella group. The group consists of 17 talented vocalists with a range of backgrounds and majors who share a common passion for making music. The Ohio State of Mind has performed on many different stages across the country and has made it to ICCA Finals in 2022 and 2023. Aside from ICCA, OSM performs at events and invitationals around Columbus and has released an EP, *Coming Home*, available on all streaming platforms.

UPPER STRUCTURE | @upperstructureacappella

Upper Structure was founded in 2015, making them the youngest a cappella group at Berklee College of Music. These humble beginnings were the start of something none of the founding members could have ever imagined. Upper Structure placed second at ICCA Finals in 2018 and 2021, taking home special awards for Outstanding Choreography and Outstanding Vocal Percussion. In 2020, Upper Structure was named Champion of the Los Angeles A Cappella Festival (LAAF). Upon the festival's return in 2023, Upper Structure returned to defend their status as reigning Champion, ultimately winning first place along with special awards for their arrangements, movement, and rhythm section for the entire set. Most recently, they released their holiday single, "Favorite Time of Year," which won Best Holiday Song at the 2023 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards (CARAs). With each iteration, their members have continued to bring emotional, empowering, and innovative perspectives to every performance. Upper Structure's purpose is to make music with meaning and to create something bigger than themselves.

Our Judges

SHAMS AHMED is an Emmy-winning producer, music director, and arranger based in Los Angeles. He made his initial debut in a cappella as the director and arranger for two-time ICCA Champions, The Nor'easters. Alongside his partners Ben Bram and Scott Hoying (of Pentatonix), Shams recently produced the acclaimed "Ragged Old Flag: An American Chorus," which earned an Emmy nomination and eventual win, making Shams the first Bangladeshi-American to receive an Emmy Award for Music Direction. The trio also co-founded the popular female pop/R&B group Citizen Queen, who signed with Sony Music's RCA Records, toured arenas with Pentatonix and Rachel Platten, and are now captivating millions on TikTok, having just released their first major original work as an independent artist. Shams is a co-founder of Acapop!, a music brand for children that has made appearances on "The Kelly Clarkson Show" and "America's Got Talent," and has garnered over 100 million views of their music videos. Drawing inspiration from his dual identity, he has been taking on more projects in the Indian/South Asian music space. Most recently, he vocal produced Shreya Ghoshal in her first-ever English-Hindi crossover piece, "Invincible," in collaboration with Pentatonix. Shams also manages Hrishi, a pop-Carnatic fusion artist, who is making waves on social media and catching the attention of music industry giants. As a former ICCA competitor himself, Shams has seen the immense value in ICHSA and ICCA competition and is delighted to return to Finals as a judge to support and celebrate these talented young musicians.

DIANA GALEANO is a graduate of Florida State University, where she studied music education with an emphasis in secondary choral education. At FSU, she sang with 2009 ICCA South Champions, The AcaBelles. Since graduating, she has worked as a high school chorus and music educator, directed FSU's summer music camps, sang with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and was an essential part of establishing and running A Cappella Academy in Los Angeles, where she served as assistant director and proud camp mom from 2014 - 2018. While no longer in the traditional classroom setting, Diana teaches at a cappella festivals, offers masterclasses to groups in the greater Boston area, and sings with and co-directs semi-professional group and Open Finalists, Sound Off.

SHANNON MCNULTY is a vocalist, educator, event planner, and mom of two. Currently, Shannon is the executive producer of the NACC, an annual conference celebrating vocal music and achievement, held in Orlando, Fla. Previously, Shannon taught music at Marlborough High School, where she directed two choirs and developed and taught their award-winning a cappella recording class, Music Production. Shannon holds a B.M. in vocal performance and music education (Ithaca College, 2007, alumna of Premium Blend) and an M.M. in music education (Boston University, 2012)

LEE STOVALL teaches vocal music at Rufus King International High School and directs Nova, an a cappella group predominantly composed of music therapy students at Alverno College in Milwaukee, Wis. His life passions are to use vocal music to spread joy to his students and their communities, as well as to break down societal barriers such as segregation and toxic masculinity. A founding member of the collegiate a cappella group Fundamentally Sound, Lee has been interested in promoting contemporary a cappella education since college and has coached and arranged for local and international groups ever since. Previous work and accolades include arranging for “Broadway Goes A Cappella 3,” which played at Feinstein’s 54 Below in New York to rave reviews, and earning recognition from the ICCA, ICHSA, and the CARAs for his work with groups from high school to professional levels. Lee is a board member for multiple local and state music associations and has sung in numerous professional ensembles. He currently sings with the early-music-focused Aperi Animam.

DR. JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ serves as Associate Director of Vocal Performance and Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy at New York University’s Steinhardt School, where he holds the rank of Associate Professor. He is a recipient of the Yamaha Corporation’s 2022 Top 40 Music Educator Award and a Musical America Top Professional of the Year. At NYU, Justin leads the graduate vocal pedagogy program and teaches courses in pedagogic theory, practice, applied voice, and directs the DownBeat Award-winning NYU Pop/Rock Ensemble. Justin also serves as Program Director of the NYU Summer Contemporary Vocal Workshop, Executive Director of Hawaii Performing Arts Festival, and as a member of the Vocal Arts Faculty at Manhattan School of Music where he teaches vocal wellness and physiology. His clients have performed on Broadway, Off-Broadway, on national tours, in regional theaters and opera houses, and on national television. A leading expert on contemporary vocal pedagogy and vocal wellness, Justin is regularly engaged as a guest clinician and consultant for organizations including the National Association of Teachers of Singing, National Opera Association, The Royal Conservatory of Music, New England Conservatory, Boston University, Berklee College of Music, and Barry’s Bootcamp. As a voice teacher, researcher, and NASM-certified personal trainer, he is particularly passionate about identifying the parallels between the worlds of voice science and sports medicine, especially concerning vocal load, efficiency, and sustainability. For the past 10 years, Justin has served as a judge for Varsity Vocals at various events across the nation. Find him on Instagram @jj_moniz

Our Host

COURTNEY JENSEN, who appeared on NBC's "The Sing-Off" Season 2 with The Backbeats, is a singer, beatboxer, and a longtime member of the Varsity Vocals team. She workshops with a cappella groups around the country, and has published a beatboxing tutorial called "Breaking Down the Beats."

Our Staff

Amanda Newman

Executive Director

Elise Hackl-Blumstein

ICHSA Director

PA/MA Program Coordinator

David Rabizadeh

ICCA Director

Emily Sucher

Director of Publications

Lucy Jacobs

ICCA West Producer

Lindsay Howerton-Hastings

ICCA South Producer

Arvin Zabalerio

ICCA Central Producer

Gemma Davies

ICCA United Kingdom Producer

Emily Benjamin

ICCA Northeast Producer

Christopher Hoffman

ICHSA Northeast Producer

Ben Garza

ICHSA Southwest Producer

Alaina Wagner

Associate Producer

Rebecca Williamson

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Jake Yoakum

Associate Producer

Sara Yood

Senior Producer

Emily Flanders

Director of Adjudication

ICCA Great Lakes Producer

Andrew Poole

Director of Digital Media

Charlotte Taylor

Marketing & Social Strategy

Holli Kitching

ICCA Mid-Atlantic Producer

Leah Alrutz

ICCA Midwest Producer

Bronwyn Jensen

ICCA Southwest Producer

Christopher Witham

ICCA United Kingdom Producer

Jillian Kimberlin

ICHSA Mid-Atlantic Producer

Adam McNeil

ICHSA Great Lakes Producer

Jody Hagler

Associate Producer

Bri Decerio

Associate Producer

Bryce McCracken

Associate Producer

Andrea Poole

Consultant

Varsity Vocals would like to thank: The Town Hall staff; Ben Bram and Elise Schroeder for creating our closing number; Martin Waymire; our photographer Ryan Camp; Greg St. Germain, Warren Trent and RDX Productions; our ICHSA award-winning guest performers; our judges, hosts, volunteers, partners, competitors, and producers; and you, the audience, for supporting Varsity Vocals programming and these students.

About Tonight's Show

The performance order was determined by random draw this afternoon and will be announced from stage. 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 10 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 Champion and Runners-Up from last night's ICHSA Finals will entertain you while the scores are tabulated.

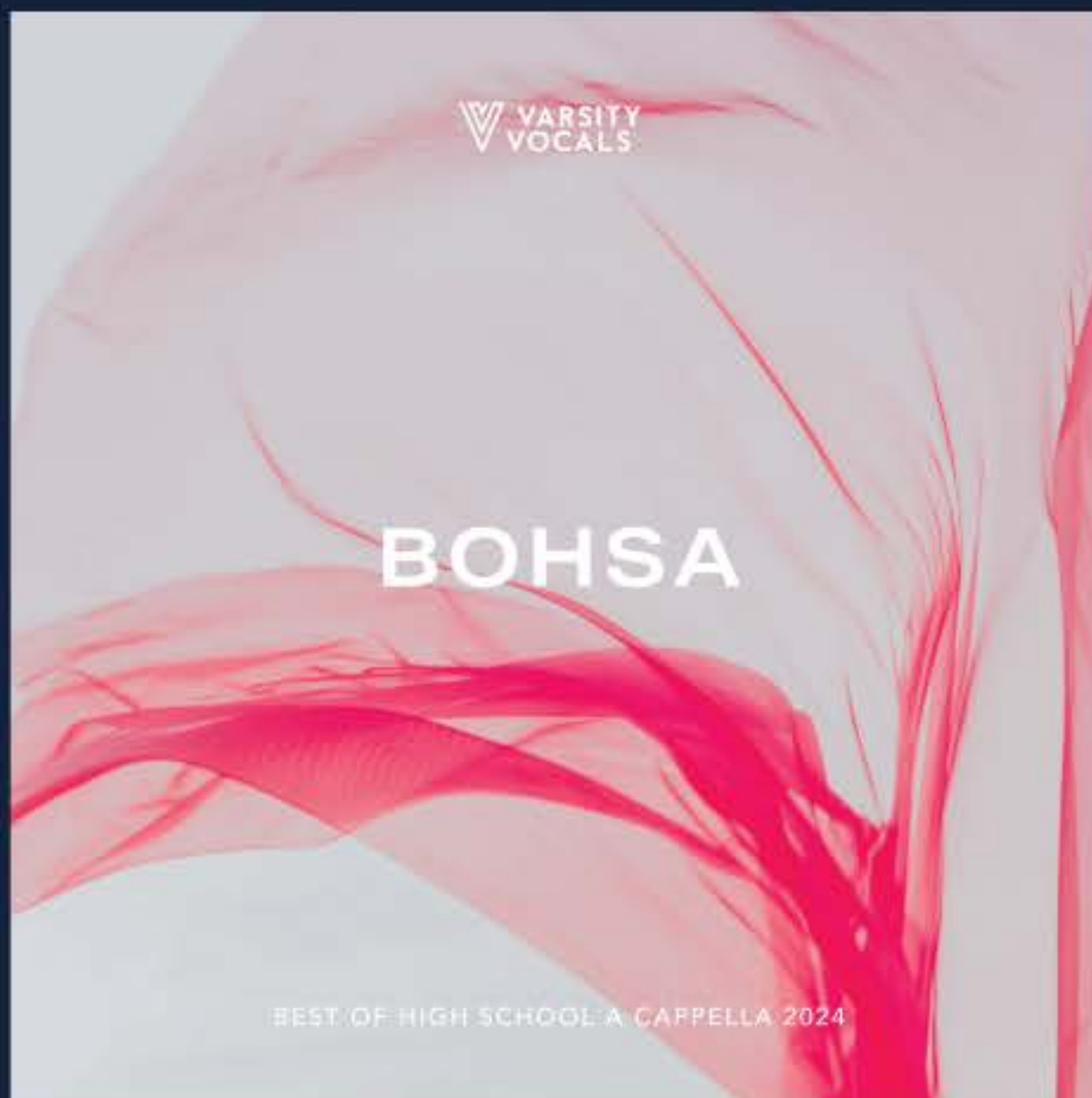
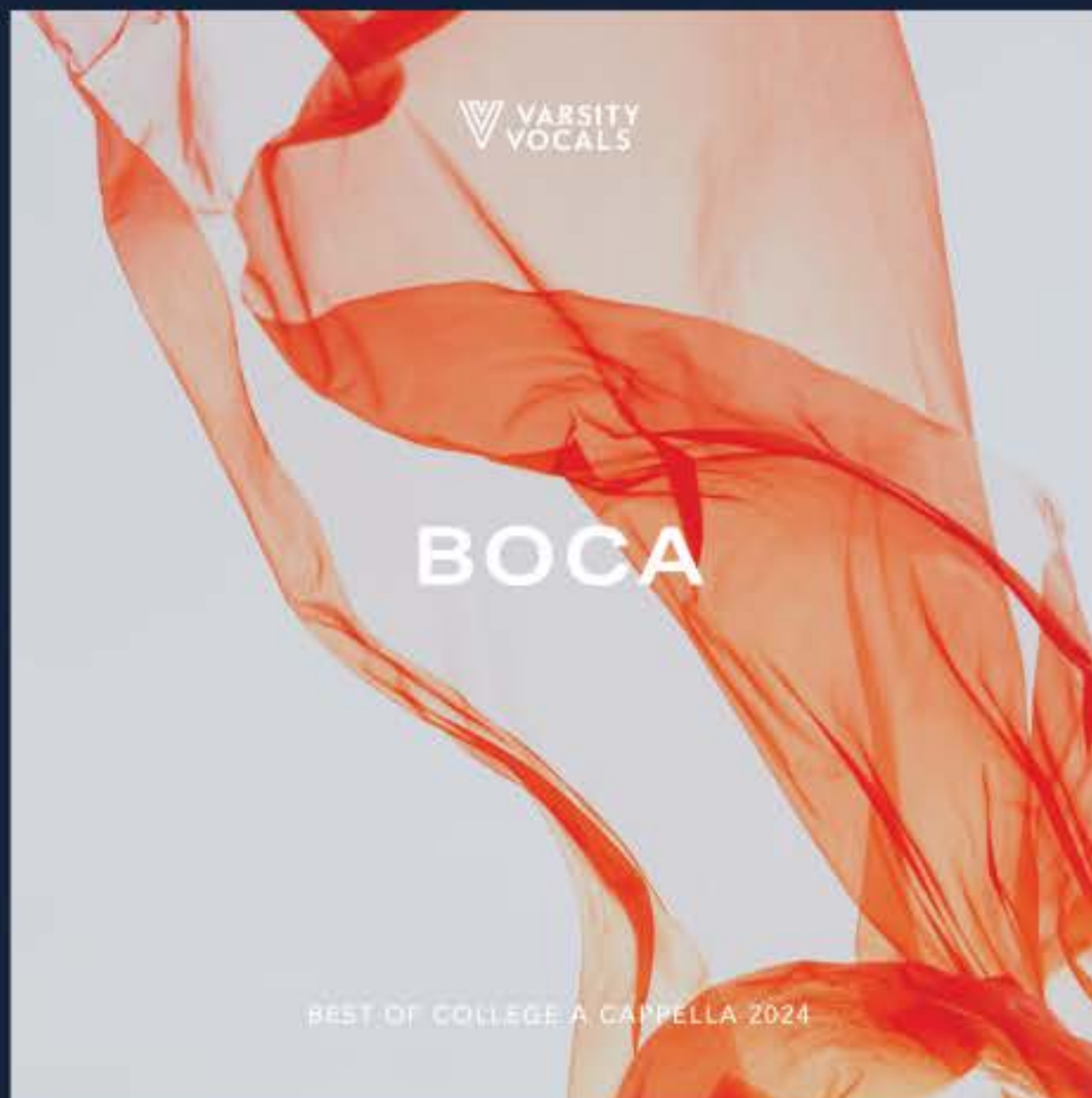
Video cameras, phones, and non-flash photography for personal use are permitted during the concert, so long as you do not disrupt our performers or other patrons. Our talented professional photographer, Ryan Camp, will be making high-resolution images available for purchase in a few weeks. A link to purchase his photos will be released on our social media. Due to licensing restrictions, we do not provide a video or audio recording of this performance.

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), and the International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA). 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.



BRING THE HARMONY HOME



BOCA: Best of College A Cappella
BOHSA: Best of High School A Cappella
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