



THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF COLLEGIATE

A CAPPPELLA

FINALS

April 26, 2025



#ICCA

THE TOWN HALL

2025 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Finals

Tonight's Competitors:

THE BINGHAMTONICS | ICCA Central Champion
Binghamton University

FURMATA | ICCA West Champion
University of Washington

MOSAIC WHISPERS | ICCA Midwest Champion
Washington University in St. Louis

NORTHERN LIGHTS | ICCA United Kingdom Champion
Durham University

NOTORIETY | ICCA Southwest Champion
University of Arizona

OFF TRACK | ICCA Mid-Atlantic Champion
Towson University

THE OPPORTUNES | ICCA Wild Card Champion
Harvard University

THE PITCHMEN | ICCA South Champion
Belmont University

PITCH, PLEASE! | ICCA Northeast Champion
Northeastern University

VOICES IN YOUR HEAD | ICCA Great Lakes Champion
University of Chicago

Our Judges

KARI FRANCIS

DIANA GALEANO

JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ

ABBEY JANES

LEE STOVALL

Our Host

LILY LESTER

Special Guest Performers

Sophia James | The 2025 ICHSA Champion and Runners-Up

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2025 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Finals! As Varsity Vocals wraps its 29th 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 700 groups and over 11,000 singers at more than 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. Fourteen years after the film’s release, our stages are full of singers who grew up watching “Pitch Perfect” and dreamed of participating in the real thing.

And now, our real-life tournament and competitors are getting a moment in the spotlight. I am excited to announce that “JUST SING,” a feature documentary following the University of Southern California SoCal VoCals through the 2023 ICCA season, has been selected for the Tribeca Film Festival. The film was produced by Academy Award-nominated production company Ventureland (“Beckham,” “WHAM!”) and GRAMMY-winning Mercury Studios (“American Symphony,” “If These Walls Could Sing”) in association with wiip (“Mare of Easttown,” “The Summer I Turned Pretty”). I was fortunate enough to serve as a producer as well, and I can best describe the film as a love letter to student a cappella. You are going to love it.

“JUST SING” will have its world premiere in the Tribeca Film Festival’s Spotlight+ section, including a special performance from The VoCals, on June 6 here in New York. Tickets will be available to the general public, and we hope to see many of you there as we share our special corner of the world with a wider audience.

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.

The most gratifying part of the Varsity Vocals experience remains the remarkable camaraderie and generosity of spirit our performers share with one another. The a cappella community is an inclusive, welcoming place to collaborate, to grow, and to celebrate self-expression. We are humbled 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,



Amanda Newman
Executive Director

We invite you to follow us @varsityvocals on Instagram and Facebook.
Join the conversation using #ICCA

  @varsityvocals

Tonight's Competitors

THE BINGHAMTONICS | @binghamtonics

As the oldest co-ed a cappella group at Binghamton University, The Binghamtonics have been making love to your ears since 1987. From pop and alternative rock to blues and hip hop, they're passionate about sharing their vibrant sound across campus and with everyone here tonight! This marks their third time competing in the ICCA, and after reaching the Semifinals in both of their previous attempts, The Binghamtonics are thrilled to be back!

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. They took home second place and Outstanding Arrangement at the 2024 ICCA Finals. This achievement joins many other accolades from over the years, including Outstanding Arrangement and Outstanding Soloist awards at other events.

MOSAIC WHISPERS | @mosaicwhispers

The Mosaic Whispers is WashU's oldest all-gender a cappella group, with 11 award-winning albums. They perform around the Midwest and at ICCA, where they have been recognized with awards for Outstanding Arrangement, Choreography, Soloist, and Vocal Percussion. They are passionate and dedicated to music, but their sense of community truly sets them apart. Whispers work hard and play hard, from family dinners, karaoke nights, and annual spring break trips to recording music at Pixar Studios. The various alumni that travel to their spring concert each year prove that Whispers are forever, whether they're going viral on TikTok, singing backup for Taylor Swift, or releasing music of their own!

NORTHERN LIGHTS | @nlacappella

Northern Lights is Durham University's mixed, premier a cappella group, made up of 15 talented and passionate performers. They have competed in the ICCA since 2015 and this 12th iteration of the group is excited to continue their legacy after two Semifinal titles. With eight incredible new members, they are proud to maintain their ethos of "One Entity, One Voice." Find them on all of their socials to hear more about their latest music, projects, and exciting new ventures!

NOTORIETY | @noterietyacappella

Noteriety is a group of 17 dedicated, unique individuals who all share a passion for singing and making music. Founded in 2009, Noteriety is University of Arizona's original all-gender a cappella group, and in 2023 were the Runner-Up at the ICCA Southwest Semifinal. Noteriety also competed in BOSS 2024.

OFF TRACK | @tuofftrack

Off Track is an all-gender a cappella group founded in fall 2021. What originally began as a group of friends looking for a musical outlet turned into an award-winning group, when they performed for the very first time at the ICCA Mid-Atlantic Quarterfinals and won first place. Even with such a humbling achievement, the group continues to value fun and friendship. Above all, Off Track seeks to foster a supportive and diverse environment where anyone with a passion for singing can succeed and have fun while doing it.

THE OPPORTUNES | @opportunes

The Opportunes is Harvard College's oldest all-gender a cappella group, founded in 1980. In addition to regular performances in the Boston area, The Opportunes embark on yearly international tours and produce professional studio albums biannually. In 2022, The Opportunes placed second at ICCA Finals, winning special awards for Outstanding Soloist, Outstanding Arrangement, and Outstanding Vocal Percussion.

THE PITCHMEN | @thepitchmen

The Pitchmen is an all-male a cappella group from Nashville, Tenn., composed of 18 students from Belmont University. Achievements include their debut album, *Ultraviolet*, becoming the 2023 ICCA Champions, and winning numerous ICCA special awards for Outstanding Soloist, Outstanding Choreography, and Outstanding Vocal Percussion throughout the competition season. With every success, this student-run group sets itself apart through its members' dedication to their craft and to one another. Encompassing the modern Nashville sound, they pride themselves on singing a broad range of music that offers something different for every audience member to enjoy.

PITCH, PLEASE! | @NUPitchPlease

Pitch, Please! is a women-centered treble a cappella group from Northeastern University. Since they were founded in 2012, they have pushed boundaries and challenged standards of traditional collegiate a cappella. Last spring, they earned third place overall at ICCA Finals, after placing first in the Quarterfinal and Semifinal rounds, winning numerous special awards for Outstanding Choreography, Outstanding Vocal Percussion, and Outstanding Soloist along the journey. Last year, they also won the Audience Favorite Award at the SingStrong AcaIdol Competition, placed third at the Boston Sings (BOSS) Scholastic competition, and earned awards for Outstanding Vocal Percussion and Most Captivating Solo. They have won 11 Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards (CARAs), including Best Upper Voices Album for both their album, *Obsidian*, in 2020 and their most recent EP, *Indigo*, in 2023. Performance highlights include the Boston Red Sox's first international women's celebration game, City of Boston events featuring Mayor Michelle Wu, and "The Today Show" in New York for International Women's Day in 2020. Follow them on all social media platforms for more exciting music and projects coming soon!

VOICES IN YOUR HEAD | @uchicagovoices

Voices in Your Head is a student-run a cappella group from the University of Chicago that aims to "push the bounds of contemporary a cappella." Founded in 1998, the group consists of both undergraduate and graduate students whose studies range from economics to music to M.D. and Ph.D. programs. Its unique repertoire includes original pieces, as well as an eclectic mix of pop, R&B, rock, and alternative music. Voices competes regularly in ICCA and releases studio recordings of their arrangements.

Our Judges

DR. KARI FRANCIS is an American choral musician whose work explores the resonant spaces between improvisation, ritual, and canonical styles. She can be heard singing with the professional choir Choral Chameleon and beatboxing on Season 3 of NBC's "The Sing-Off" with Kinfolk 9 and on GRAMMY-winner Cory Smythe's album *Accelerate Every Voice*. Her approach to teaching and concertizing centers living and historically underrepresented voices as part of equitable, creative, and learner-centered pedagogies, while her composing merges elements of psalmody, vocal jazz, renaissance polyphony, and contemporary a cappella. She has written chapters for books published by GIA Music and the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician. Kari is the Director of Choral Activities at Bowdoin College and the choir director of The Walden School Young Musicians Program.

DIANA ALEJANDRA GALEANO-BAZZEGHIN is a proud alumna of Florida State University, where she earned her degree in choral music education and sang with the 2009 ICCA South Champions, The AcaBelles. Since her collegiate days, she has passionately dedicated herself to advancing music education and performance, thriving as a K-12 choral educator, director of FSU's summer music camps, member of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and co-director of International Championship of A Cappella Open Wild Card Champion, Sound Off (2014-2024). Diana was also instrumental in launching and managing A Cappella Academy, serving as assistant camp director and beloved "camp mom" from 2014 to 2018. Although she's stepped away from the traditional classroom and a cappella stages, Diana continues to share her love of music. She currently performs with a vocal trio in the Pioneer Valley, leads vocal workshops and masterclasses across Massachusetts, and hones her skills as an improviser. When not immersed in music, she enjoys traveling the globe with her husband and doting on her cats.

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 Top 40 Music Educator Award and a Musical America Top Professional of the Year. At NYU, Justin leads the graduate vocal pedagogy program, teaches courses in pedagogic theory, practice, and 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 (*cont.*)

(cont'd) identifying the parallels between the worlds of voice science and sports medicine, especially concerning vocal load, efficiency, and sustainability. For the past decade, Justin has served as a judge for Varsity Vocals at various events across the nation. Instagram: @jj_moniz

ABBEY JANES sings with and arranges for internationally acclaimed a cappella group, Duwendé. An eight-time CARA winner and three-time A Cappella Video Awards (AVA) winner, Duwendé 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, Duwendé has been a featured performer at several Sundance Film Festivals. Abbey enjoys being involved in scholastic a cappella conferences and competitions as a clinician and judge. As a music major at Franklin and Marshall College, Abbey sang with and music-directed a mixed-voice group, The Poor Richards. Like so many here tonight, she credits those years with her college group for some of her best learning experiences, memories, and lifelong relationships!

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, the 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.

Tonight’s Guest Performer

SOPHIA JAMES is a once in a generation vocal talent, multi-instrumentalist, and songwriter. Born into a family of touring musicians, Sophia has been performing, creating, and breathing music for her whole life. As a new artist with over 23 million streams from independent releases, Sophia offers “timeless authenticity” in an age characterized by of-the-moment trends. Sophia attended UCLA and was a member of The ScatterTones, progressing with them to ICCA Finals in both 2019 and 2022. Since graduating in 2022, Sophia has been writing, releasing, and performing her own music. Equally confident with a full band, solo, or with a looping machine, she has toured extensively, and has opened for acts such as Eloise, Jensen McRae, Cannons, and Couch.

Our Host

LILY LESTER is a New York-based stand-up comedian, singer, and actor. She is a regular at New York Comedy Club, Stamford Comedy Club, and Atlantic City Comedy Club. This year, she was a featured performer in the New York Comedy Festival and the Knockouts Women's Comedy Festival. Most importantly, she was a member of the 2019 ICCA Champions, The NYU N'Harmonics, and no other credits really matter to her.

Varsity Vocals Staff

Amanda Newman
Executive Director

David Rabizadeh
ICCA Director

Elise Hackl-Blumstein
ICHSA Director
PA/MA Program Coordinator

Emily Sucher
Director of Publications

Lucy Jacobs
Senior Producer, ICCA & ICHSA West

Lindsay Howerton-Hastings
Senior Producer, ICCA South

Arvin Zabalerio
Senior Producer, ICCA Central

Gemma Davies
Producer, ICCA United Kingdom

Emily Benjamin
Producer, ICCA Northeast

Adam McNeil
Producer, ICHSA Great Lakes

Valentyna Simon
Producer, ICHSA West

Ben Garza
Producer, ICHSA Southwest

Bryce McCracken
Associate Producer, ICCA Central

Angelina Corbin
Associate Producer, ICCA & ICHSA South

Bri Decerio
Associate Producer

Sara Yood
Senior Producer, ICCA & ICHSA Finals

Emily Flanders
Director of Adjudication
Senior Producer, ICCA Great Lakes

Andrew Poole
Director of Digital Media

Charlotte Taylor
Marketing & Social Strategy

Holli Kitching
Senior Producer, ICCA Mid-Atlantic

Leah Alrutz
Senior Producer, ICCA Midwest

Alaina Wegner
Producer, ICCA Southwest

Christopher Witham
Producer, ICCA United Kingdom

Jillian Kimberlin
Senior Producer, ICHSA Mid-Atlantic

Christopher Hoffman
Producer, ICHSA Northeast

Jake Yoakum
Producer, ICHSA West

Nicole Palmetto
Associate Producer, ICCA Northeast

Tyandria Jaaber
Associate Producer, ICCA Mid-Atlantic

Rebecca Williamson
Associate Producer, ICCA South

Andie Poole
Consultant, ICHSA Director Emeritus

Varsity Vocals would like to thank: The Town Hall staff; Bellwether Public Relations; Ben Bram and Lili Fuller for creating our closing number; our photographer Ian Shiff; Greg St. Germain, Warren Trent and RDX Productions; Northman Productions; 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, as well as Sophia James, will entertain you while the scores are tabulated.

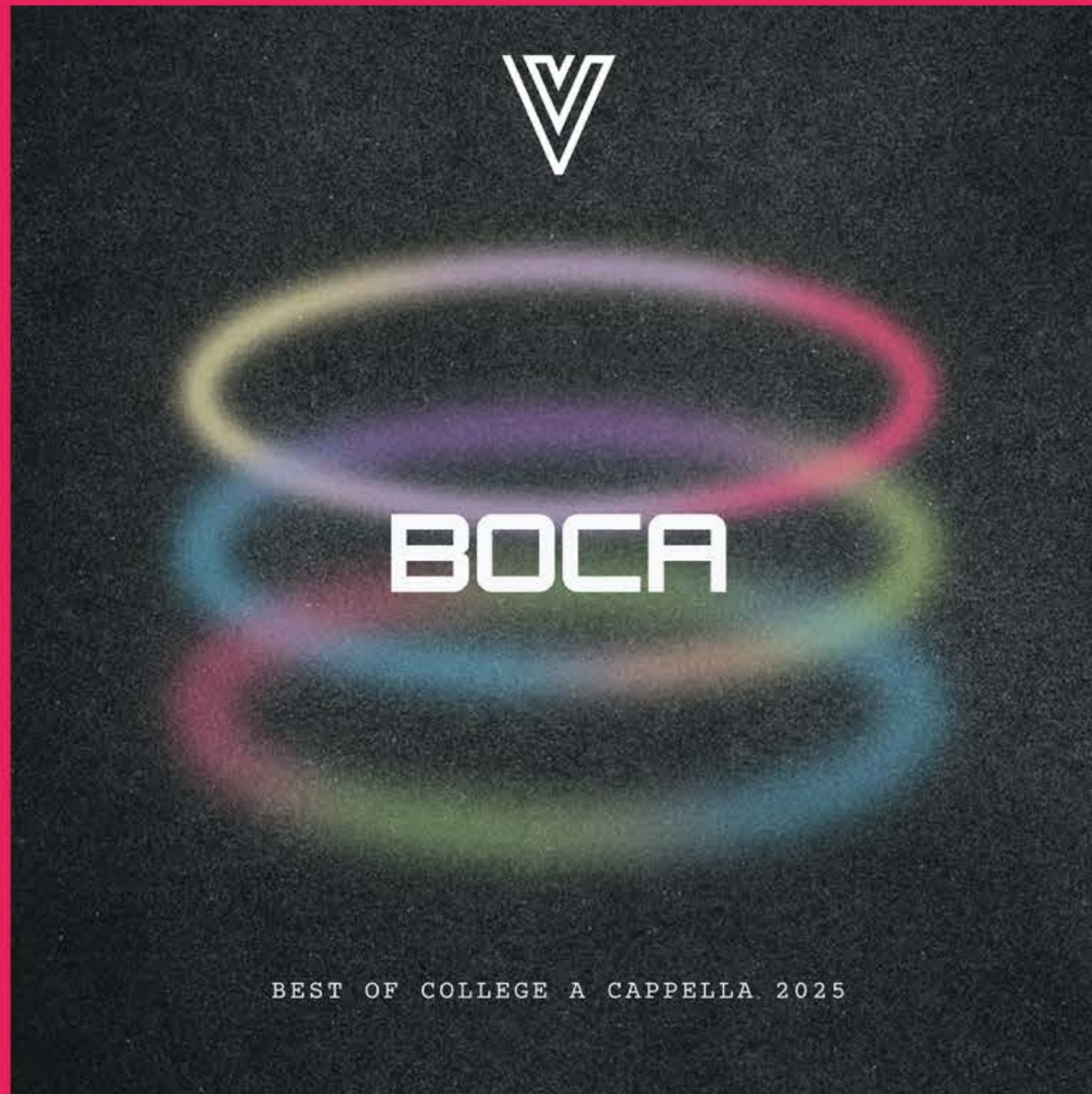
Video cameras, phones, and non-flash photography for personal use are permitted during the concert, so long as you do not disrupt our performers or other patrons. Our talented professional photographer, Ian Shiff, will be making high-resolution images available for purchase in a few weeks. A link to 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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