



THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF COLLEGIATE

# A CAPPELLA

FINALS

April 25, 2026



#ICCA

THE TOWN HALL

# 2026 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Finals

## Tonight's Competitors:

**A CUB BELLA** | ICCA Midwest Champion  
*Missouri State University*

**AMAZIN' BLUE** | ICCA Great Lakes Champion  
*University of Michigan*

**CAROLINA SOUND** | ICCA South Champion  
*University of Mount Olive*

**EH? CAPPELLA** | ICCA West Champion  
*University of British Columbia*

**THE NOR'EASTERS** | ICCA Northeast Champion  
*Northeastern University*

**NORTHERN LIGHTS** | ICCA United Kingdom Champion  
*Durham University*

**OFF THE RECORD** | ICCA Central Champion  
*Lehigh University*

**OFF TRACK** | ICCA Mid-Atlantic Champion  
*Towson University*

**PRISMATICS** | ICCA Wild Card Champion  
*Belmont University*

**VIRTUOSO** | ICCA Southwest Champion  
*Baylor University*

### **Our Judges**

KARI FRANCIS  
DIANA GALEANO  
JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ  
SEAN PATRICK RILEY  
ANDREW SIRIBANSOP

### **Our Host**

LILY LESTER

### **Special Guest Performers**

The 2026 ICHSA Champion and Runners-Up

**Saturday, April 25, 2026**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2026 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Finals!

As Varsity Vocals celebrates its 30th season of showcasing the very best student groups both on stage and in the studio, our enthusiasm for a cappella is stronger than ever. What began as a handful of events has grown into a global phenomenon, now featuring more than 700 groups and over 11,000 singers across more than 85 events throughout North America and the United Kingdom.

Our tournament inspired the hit film “Pitch Perfect,” based on the nonfiction book that chronicled the real-life rivalries within the ICCA. The “Pitch Perfect” franchise has since become the highest-grossing musical film series of all time. Fifteen years later, our stages are filled with performers who grew up watching those films and dreaming of experiencing this very moment.

Now, our real-life competition is stepping even further into the spotlight. I am thrilled to share that “JUST SING,” a feature documentary following The SoCal VoCals through the 2023 ICCA season, premiered at the Tribeca Festival and had its theatrical debut Thursday night here in New York City. It was an unforgettable evening, with many of our collegiate and high school Finalists joining us on the red carpet to celebrate this community together.

“JUST SING” takes you inside the real world of competitive a cappella, following a group of students as they navigate the pressure, passion, and joy of participating in our tournament. At its core, the film is not just about singing – it is about identity, belonging, and finding your voice during a truly pivotal time in life.

Produced by Academy Award-nominated Ventureland and Grammy-winning Mercury Studios, the film is a love letter to student a cappella. I was honored to serve as an executive producer, and I cannot wait for you to experience it. The film will have a limited theatrical run in New York and Los Angeles, and we look forward to bringing it to a streaming platform soon so audiences everywhere can share in this story.

Despite our growth and increasing visibility, our mission remains unchanged: to support and develop the incredible talent that takes our stage. Competition provides a powerful framework for growth, encouraging groups to strive toward a shared goal while building lasting skills and relationships. Beyond the valuable feedback from our esteemed judges, performers gain the opportunity to connect, to learn from one another, and to be inspired by their peers.

The heart of Varsity Vocals is the spirit of our community. The camaraderie, generosity, and mutual support among performers make a cappella a uniquely welcoming and collaborative art form. We are continually inspired by the creativity, passion, and authenticity that define this space, and we are honored to provide a platform for it.

It is a true privilege to present tonight’s Finals, featuring the very best 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

  @varsityvocals

Follow us @varsityvocals on social media and join the conversation using #ICCA

## Tonight's Competitors

### **A CUB BELLA | @acubbella\_msu**

Founded in 2002, A Cub Bella is Missouri State University's premier all-treble a cappella group, known for their powerhouse vocals, fierce choreography, and unbreakable sisterhood. This close-knit crew of women brings harmony, heart, and a little bit of high seas energy. In 2025, they made waves on the ICCA stage, earning 1st place at Midwest Quarterfinals, along with Outstanding Choreography (Kailynn Stiff) and Outstanding Soloist (Caroline Johnson). They went on to place 2nd at the 2025 Midwest Semifinals with their siren-themed set. Beyond competition, A Cub Bella performs across Springfield, Mo., and hosts two concerts each year. They also value musical education and tour local high schools to encourage students to keep music in their lives after graduation. A Cub Bella thrives on community, both within their own group and with fellow Missouri State a cappella groups. They also recorded a new album, planned for release in spring 2026. Follow them on Instagram and stream them on Spotify by searching for A Cub Bella. Let them be your siren song.

### **AMAZIN' BLUE | @amazinblue**

Amazin' Blue is the University of Michigan's oldest all-gender a cappella ensemble. Since its inception in 1987, Amazin' Blue (AB to their friends) has produced 14 studio albums, performed around the nation, and competed on national stages. The group's dedication and commitment to excellence and creative expression is only outshone by their tight-knit community. With over 30 years of existence, the group has undergone many transformations, but their core principles remain the same: caring for one another and taking creative risks. When they're not singing, AB members can be found making fritas runs, holding Super Smash Bros tournaments, and making references only they understand. Beyond competing and performing, AB's ultimate goal is to inspire a love for a cappella in their audiences.

### **CAROLINA SOUND | @carolina.sound**

Carolina Sound is new to the ICCA family and super excited to be part of it! Representing the University of Mouth Olive, the group has been singing and touring since 2019. Founded by vocal duo Lester and Holly Rector, the group loves performing and being together. They are especially grateful for the opportunity to impact other people's lives the way that music has impacted theirs.

### **EH? CAPPELLA | @ehcappella**

Eh? Cappella, from the University of British Columbia, has been competing in the ICCA since 2016, and earned 1st place at Quarterfinals in 2018, 2020, and 2022. Seven-time Semifinalists, Eh? Cappella has also won special ICCA awards, such as Outstanding Choreography and Outstanding Vocal Percussion. Directed by Giuliana Kim and Ryota Misaki, this year's group aims to deliver an exciting and ambitious set, depicting the emotional ups and downs of a breakup story.

### **THE NOR'EASTERS | @nunoreasters**

The Nor'easters is Northeastern University's premier all-gender a cappella group. They received 1st place in the 2023 scholastic competition at Boston Sings (BOSS). They were also the 2019 Champions at the National A Cappella Convention (NACC), and the 2013 and 2017 ICCA Champions. Over the years, The Nor'easters have (*cont.*)

(cont'd) been privileged to perform in London, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and the White House. Last year, they took 2nd place at ICCA Northeast Semifinals. You can find their full 2025 set on their YouTube channel. Check out their latest album, *Supersonic*, wherever you stream your music, and stay up to date by following them on all social media platforms @nunoreasters.

### **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!

### **OFF THE RECORD | @lehighofftherecord**

Off The Record (OTR), is one of Lehigh University's premier co-ed a cappella groups. Founded in 2009, they recently celebrated 15 years of music and memories with a reunion concert featuring over 20 alumni! Last year, OTR made history as the first Lehigh a cappella group to place at ICCA Semifinals, following their 1st place win at ICCA Central Quarterfinals. Their incredibly successful 2025 ICCA season also included special awards for Outstanding Arrangement, Outstanding Soloist, and Outstanding Choreography. OTR's journey to ICCA Semifinals was supported by an outpouring of community fundraising, a testament to the group's lasting impact and devoted network of alumni, friends, and family! Beyond competitions, they perform at campus events, such as The Rally, Family Weekend, Founder's Day, Pride-a-Palooza, Rivalry Week's Le-Lafapella, and the Soaring Together Summit. Last spring, the group released a new album, *It's Not The Song, It Is The Singing*, on streaming platforms and has more recordings on the way. Above all else, OTR is a family, singing for their community, alumni, and themselves.

### **OFF TRACK | @tuofftrack**

Off Track is an all-gender a cappella group from Towson University, founded in fall 2021. What began as a group of friends looking for a musical outlet evolved into a highly dedicated, award-winning group that has advanced to every round of the ICCA. The group continues to value fun and friendship and fosters a supportive and diverse environment for all of its members, regardless of their background. Last year, Off Track was honored to represent the Mid-Atlantic at ICCA Finals in New York City, and they look forward to taking the Finals stage again this year!

### **PRISMATICS | @prismaticsacappella**

Prismatics, founded through friendship in 2015, is an all-gender a cappella group from Belmont University, committed to making meaningful music. No stranger to the ICCA stage, Prismatics has competed every year since their debut in 2017. They were blessed to attend ICCA Finals in 2021 and 2022, as well as multiple ICCA Semifinals, including the 2025 season. Over the years, they have also won many awards for Outstanding Soloist, Outstanding Vocal Percussion, and Outstanding Choreography, most recently taking Outstanding Soloist at their 2025 ICCA South Quarterfinal. This year, Prismatics is thrilled to return to the ICCA stage and compete alongside their peers, sharing their love and passion for music.

## **VIRTUOSO | @baylorvirtuoso**

Baylor VirtuOSO is the premier contemporary vocal ensemble of Baylor University. Under the direction of Professor Reginal Wright, VirtuOSO explores a wide range of vocal styles, from swinging jazz standards and soulful gospel to fresh arrangements of today's chart-topping hits. Rooted in a tradition of vocal excellence, the ensemble emphasizes musicianship, creativity, and collaboration. Members of VirtuOSO are selected through competitive auditions and represent some of Baylor's most versatile and skilled student musicians. VirtuOSO performs regularly on campus and in the Waco community, engaging audiences through innovative performances that blend sophisticated harmonies with rhythmic vitality and emotional depth. The group maintains an active digital presence, producing social media content and video projects that share their music with a broader audience. Whether performing classic arrangements inspired by groups like New York Voices and Take 6, or original reimaginings of modern favorites, Baylor VirtuOSO embodies the spirit of excellence, artistry, and joy that defines Baylor's School of Music.

## **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 New York-based 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 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. Her doctoral thesis, "Not An Object But Motion: Choral Improvisation Through Vocal Painting," offers techniques for conductors to foster individual and collective artistic agency in choral ensembles while expanding concert programming to include collaboratively realized works.

**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. This experience incited a passionate career as a K-12 choral educator, director of FSU's summer music camps, member of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and co-director of the 2019 Open Wild Card Champion, Sound Off (2014-2024). Diana also helped launch A Cappella Academy, where she served as assistant camp director and beloved "camp mom" from 2014 to 2018. These days, she channels that same energy into vocal workshops throughout the Northeast and her newfound love of community musical theatre. She made her stage debut in 2025 and is already back for more. Whether she's at home with her cats or exploring new sites around the globe alongside her husband and their daughter Dahlia, her most fulfilling adventure is being a mom (though the cats are still skeptical). With so many in her circle welcoming little ones of their own, the next generation of a cappella talent looks very promising indeed.

**DR. JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ** is a globally recognized authority in vocal pedagogy and performance. Last year, he was named the 2025 Ellen Faull Master Teacher by the National Association of Teachers of Singing. A recipient of the Yamaha Corporation Top 40 Music Educator Award and a Musical America Top Professional of the Year, he serves as Associate Director of Vocal Performance and Coordinator of Vocal Pedagogy at NYU's Steinhardt School, where he is an Associate Professor. There, he leads the graduate vocal pedagogy program, and directs the DownBeat Award-winning NYU Pop/Rock Ensemble. A three-time winner of The American Prize in Vocal Performance, he also serves as Artistic Director of ArtsBridge Summer Contemporary Vocal Performance, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Performing Arts Festival, and associate editor of the Journal of Singing. In addition to frequent engagements as a guest clinician and consultant, Justin bridges voice science with sports medicine as a NASM-certified personal trainer, focusing on vocal load, efficiency, and sustainability. Justin has served as a judge for Varsity Vocals for 13 seasons and a Finals judge since 2019. Follow his work on Instagram @jj\_moniz.

**SEAN PATRICK RILEY** has spent nearly two decades working within the a cappella community as a performer, coach, and educator, and has been judging for Varsity Vocals for the past 17 years. He began his work with the Contemporary A Cappella Society (CASA) in its Ambassador Program and later served on the production teams for ACappellaFest, SoJam, the Los Angeles A Cappella Festival (LAAF), and Boston Sings (BOSS). Sean holds bachelor's degrees in music and communication, along with a master's degree in nursing from Saint Louis University. During his time at SLU, Sean was the music director and business manager of The Bare Naked Statues, a former ICCA Finalist with featured recordings on *Voices Only* and *BOCA*. In addition to coaching a cappella groups across the country, Sean spent a decade as a counselor and nurse at the musical intensive camp, A Cappella Academy in Los Angeles. He currently works as a nurse practitioner with RWJBarnabas Health at the Babs Siperstein PROUD Center in Somerville, N.J. and lives nearby in Mountain Lakes with his husband, Jeff, and their son, Oliver.

**ANDREW SIRIBANSOP** is a vocal arranger and producer based in New York City. He holds a Bachelor of Music in music composition from Northwestern University, a Master of Music in film scoring from New York University, and an M.B.A. from NYU Stern. During his time at Northwestern, he was a founding member and music director of collegiate a cappella group, Extreme Measures. Andrew founded and music-directed Backtrack Vocals, a professional pop a cappella group with over 13 million YouTube views. The group has performed at prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, the Beacon Theatre, the United Nations, during Broadway's "Kinky Boots," and on "The Steve Harvey Show." Andrew currently performs with Iris Vocal Trio, winners of the 2018 Open and the 2023 Harmony Sweepstakes Mid-Atlantic Regional. Iris released their debut album, *Iris*, and regularly performs aboard American Cruise Lines. Recently, Andrew founded VO/CO, a production company specializing in vocal harmony music.

# 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. She was also 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*

Elise Hackl-Blumstein  
*ICHSA Director*  
*PA/MA Program Coordinator*

David Rabizadeh  
*ICCA Director*

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 Witham  
*Producer, ICCA United Kingdom*

Rebecca Williamson  
*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*

Jaykob Archer  
*Associate Producer, ICHSA Midwest*

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*

McKinley Thoreson  
*Associate Producer, ICHSA Great Lakes*

Andie Poole  
*Consultant, ICHSA Director Emeritus*

**Varsity Vocals thanks:** The Town Hall staff; Bellwether Public Relations; Ben Bram and Lili Fuller for creating our closing number; our photography team, Ian Shiff, Shauna Hilferty, and Jake Young; RDX Productions and lead engineers Greg St. Germain and Warren Trent; our judges, hosts, volunteers, partners, competitors, and producers; and you, our audience, for supporting these students and our competition.

## 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, each with their own numerical weight. The highest and lowest judge scores for each group are dropped, and judges may present special awards at their discretion.

Each group has 10 minutes to perform. Please keep applause brief between songs and save extended applause for the end of each set. There will be a 15-minute intermission after the sixth group performs. 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.

Non-flash photography and personal video recording are permitted, provided they do not disrupt performers or other audience members. Professional photos will be shared on our social media in the coming weeks. Due to licensing restrictions, no official video or audio recording will be provided.

## About Varsity Vocals

Since 1996, we have inspired students worldwide to pursue 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), along with our annual *Best of College A Cappella (BOCA)* and *Best of High School A Cappella (BOHSA)* compilation albums.

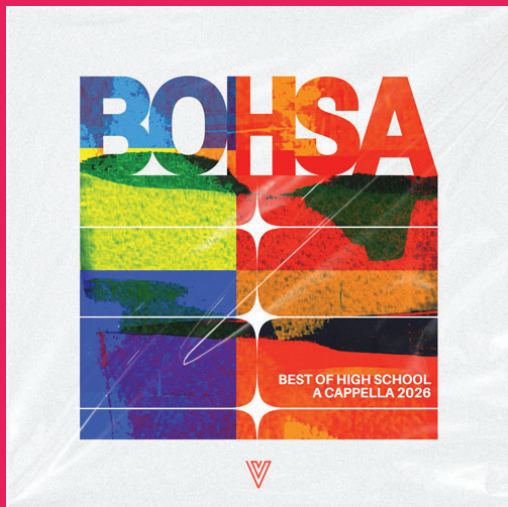
Our competitions provide outstanding groups the opportunity to perform for international audiences and receive valuable feedback from expert judges. Each year, groups take the stage in venues around the world, sharing dynamic performances for audiences like you.



# BRING THE HARMONY HOME

---

---



**Now streaming!**

**BOCA: Best of College A Cappella**

**BOHSA: Best of High School A Cappella**

**[varsityvocals.com/albums](https://varsityvocals.com/albums)**

