



THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF HIGH SCHOOL

# A CAPPELLA

## FINALS

April 24, 2026



#ICHSA

THE TOWN HALL

# 2026 International Championship of High School A Cappella Finals

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

**SONIC EDGE** | ICHSA South Champion  
*CCCEPA at Pebblebrook High School, Mableton, Ga.*

**16TH STREET SOUL** | ICHSA Midwest Champion  
*Warren Central High School, Indianapolis, Ind.*

**TITANIUM** | ICHSA West Champion  
*Tesoro High School, Las Flores, Calif.*

**THE RAM JAMS** | ICHSA Wild Card  
*Ramsey High School, Ramsey, N.J.*

**STAY TUNED** | ICHSA Mid-Atlantic Champion  
*Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill, N.J.*

**OFF THE RECORD** | ICHSA Great Lakes Champion  
*Lockport Township High School, Lockport, Ill.*

**NOTEORIOUS** | ICHSA Northeast Champion  
*North Reading High School, North Reading, Mass.*

**INFINITI** | ICHSA Southwest Champion  
*Rockwall-Heath High School, Heath, Texas*

**LIMITED EDITION** | ICHSA Wild Card  
*Port Washington High School, Port Washington, Wis.*

## **Our Judges**

KARI FRANCIS

DIANA GALEANO

JUSTIN JOHN MONIZ

SEAN PATRICK RILEY

ANDREW SIRIBANSOP

## **Our Host**

LILY LESTER

**Friday, April 24, 2026**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2026 International Championship of High School 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 #ICHSA

# Tonight's Competitors

## **SONIC EDGE – South Champion | @sonicedgeacappella**

Sonic Edge A Cappella is the award-winning vocal ensemble from the Cobb County Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts at Pebblebrook High School. Composed of 18 voices, this group is known for its electrifying performances, dynamic harmonies, and cutting-edge vocal arrangements. Sonic Edge performs a wide ranging repertoire, from chart-topping pop hits and soulful ballads to high-energy musical theatre selections. Under the direction of Trey Giddens, Sonic Edge has earned back-to-back ICHSA Championships in 2024 and 2025. Beyond competition, the group performs throughout the community, inspiring audiences with their passion for music and their commitment to artistic collaboration. They can't wait to perform and see what the other groups have in store!

## **16TH STREET SOUL – Midwest Champion | @wc16thstoul**

16th Street Soul is the premier contemporary a cappella ensemble of Warren Central High School. They ignite the stage with a bold, cinematic sound that is raw, urgent, and unmistakably their own. Forged in the heart of Indianapolis's Eastside, these artists embody resilience, passion, and purpose. Under the direction of Mr. Brian Long, 16th Street Soul is known for its rich vocal blend, striking musicality, and performances that blur the line between concert and theatre, enhancing their music with movement, emotion, and narrative. Tonight, they present their 2026 competition production, "The Fire You Become," a four-movement journey through shadow, resistance, confession, and rebirth. This show asks what rises within when the world begins to burn and who people choose to become on the other side. More than an ensemble, 16th Street Soul is a family of artists who train relentlessly, collaborate fearlessly, and represent what truly makes Warren Central the pride of the Eastside. This is their voice. This is their story. This is the fire they become.

## **TITANIUM – West Champion | @tesorotitanium**

Titanium is a co-ed contemporary a cappella ensemble from the Grammy-winning choral program at Tesoro High School in Las Flores, Calif. They frequently perform at sporting events, pep rallies, and other school and community events. Titanium has competed numerous times in ICHSA, most notably winning the title of 2023 ICHSA West Champion and going on to place 4th at Finals in New York City that year. In 2025, they were featured showcase performers at the National A Cappella Convention (NACC) in Orlando, Fla. The group has released several music videos, an EP, and performed at the Grammy museum for director Quentin Tarantino. Titanium enjoys post-rehearsal boba and group pizookie nights. You can check out their music video releases on YouTube and their music on all streaming platforms.

### **THE RAM JAMS – Wild Card | @theramjams**

The Ram Jams is the principal competitive a cappella group within the Ramsey High School Choral Program. Established in 2016, this group represents the top auditioned students from the chorus program and performs music from a wide variety of genres, including contemporary a cappella, classical choral repertoire, and original pieces. A yearly competitor in ICHSA, they have advanced all the way to ICHSA Finals in New York several times since 2020. Outside of competition, The Ram Jams have been invited to perform in many concerts and festivals, including invitations to the American Choral Directors Association Eastern conference, and as the first-ever student group featured at the New Jersey Music Educators Conference Gala concert. The Ram Jams have produced multiple albums and their recordings are featured on several of Varsity Vocals' BOHSA albums. They released their most recent album, *Unchained*, in fall 2024 and a single, "Symptom of Life," in fall 2025.

### **STAY TUNED – Mid-Atlantic Champion | @staytunedacapella**

Stay Tuned, from Cherry Hill East High School, has experienced wild success since its inception in 2012. In 2016, they were featured on an eight-week Lifetime docuseries, "Pitch Slapped," where they were coached by Deke Sharon, famed music director and arranger of the "Pitch Perfect" franchise. Stay Tuned has performed at the Kimmel Center, Lincoln Financial Field, The Town Hall, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall alongside the cast of the "Pitch Perfect" movies. Most recently, Stay Tuned has competed in two previous ICHSA Finals competitions. While Stay Tuned has enjoyed national success, sharing their love and passion for music with their local community of friends and supporters has always been their No. 1 priority. The members of Stay Tuned are thankful for every performance opportunity and strive to inspire and bring joy to their audiences.

### **OFF THE RECORD – Great Lakes Champion | @offtherecordacappella**

Off The Record is a passionate group of student musicians who strive to entertain audiences with technically sound and emotionally compelling performances. In its eight years of existence, OTR has been fortunate to qualify for six ICHSA Semifinal rounds, notably placing as Semifinal Runner-Up in 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025. Last year, they ultimately reached 3rd place in the 2025 ICHSA Wild Card round. OTR actively performs throughout the Midwest and was invited to perform at the Illinois Music Educators Conference and as the opening act for Foreigner's farewell tour. They also earned featured tracks on the 2024 and 2025 BOHSA compilations. They would like to thank their friends and family for all of their support and hope you enjoy their set this evening.

### **NOTEORIOUS – Northeast Champion | @nrhs\_noteorious**

Founded in 2009, NOTEorious is North Reading High School's all-voice student-run a cappella group. This is their second straight ICHSA Finals appearance. Last year, NOTEorious performed in Memphis, placed in the top 3 at N.E. Voices, and were the Champions of the 2025 ICHSA Northeast Semifinal. They challenge themselves to arrange their own music each year and recently visited a recording studio for the first time. They work hard, play hard, and flashmob everywhere they go.

## **INFINITI – Southwest Champion | @heathinfiniti**

Infiniti is the mixed a cappella ensemble from Rockwall-Heath High School. Since forming in 2018, they've been part of the growing Texas a cappella community, performing at festivals and competitions, including ICHSA and Acatex. Infiniti has had the opportunity to perform on the ICHSA Finals stage in New York City, most recently earning 3rd place at Finals in 2025. They have also been featured on prestigious compilation albums, such as *BOHSA* and *Voices Only*. Infiniti thrives on positive energy and embraces any opportunity to share their love of a cappella with others.

## **LIMITED EDITION – Wild Card | @limitededitionacappella**

Limited Edition is an exceptional mixed group of young men and women from Port Washington, Wis. Founded by Dennis Gephart, they are celebrating their 24th year as a group. Over the years, Limited Edition has had the privilege to represent the Midwest at ICHSA Finals, and they won the Championship in 2010.

# **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 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

Performance order was determined by random draw and is listed in this program. Groups are evaluated on vocal and visual elements, each with 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 and a brief intermission following the final performance.

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.

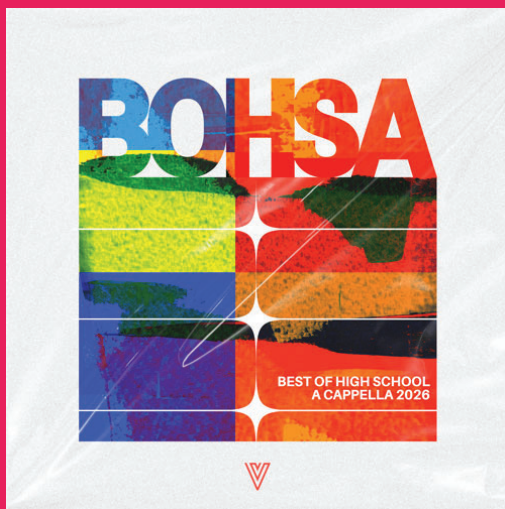
Our competitions provide outstanding groups the opportunity to perform for international audiences and receive valuable feedback from expert judges. Each year, groups take the stage in venues around the world, sharing dynamic performances for audiences like you.



# 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)**

