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# News Release

VOCAL POINT

2015-2016 Season

Brigham Young University

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## General

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

They have percussion without drums. They have a rhythm section without a bass. The only instruments on stage belong to the nine voices of the nationally renowned a cappella group Vocal Point. Hailing from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, Vocal Point gives stunning, high-energy performances that won them the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) and a faithful following throughout the world. The group competed on NBC's *The Sing-Off* in 2011. Each week, Vocal Point and other a cappella groups performed and were judged by recording artists Ben Folds, Sara Bareilles, and Shawn Stockman. Vocal Point finished as one of the top five final groups on this nationally televised competition.

With a varied repertoire and a wide range of vocal possibilities—and seeming impossibilities—these crowd-pleasers have it all: rock, pop, country, jazz, and R&B all mixed into the time of your life. This nine-man group takes the songs you hear on the radio, retools them, and delivers a new rendition, complete with all the complex instrumentation done entirely with their mouths. Their family-friendly show is a toe-tapper, and their performance is a showstopper. Each Vocal Point member displays musical ability, creativity, and stage experience—a combination which adds up to original, skillful, and spirited performances. “Well that’s about the most professional group at the collegiate level anywhere,” says Deke Sharon, founder of the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America (CASA) and Vocal Producer of NBC’s *The Sing Off*. “Seriously, that’s as close as anyone could ever get to being a rock star.”

The group performs for over 50,000 people each year, regularly selling out shows weeks in advance. This past summer, Vocal Point performed at Disneyland’s 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diamond Celebration. While there, they also taught workshops for Disney cast members. Vocal Point performed “The Star-Spangled Banner” for an audience of

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over 80,000 at the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Centennial Celebration. The group has performed for the San Francisco Giants at 3Com Stadium and for ambassadors from around the world in Washington, D.C.

In 2006, Vocal Point took first place in the International Championship of Collegiate A Capella (ICCA) at a performance in New York City. They returned to this same competition for the 2011 season and placed first runner-up at the finals. The Faith-Centered Music Association awarded the group three Pearl Awards, including best performing artist and best recording group. At the invitation of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, the group was selected to perform at nearly every major venue for the Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games.

Vocal Point is the best-selling artist for BYU Records, and one of the best sellers for Deseret Book. This October, the group will release its first Christmas album, *He Is Born*. Most recently, the group released *Spectrum* (2014), rearranging popular tunes including Sara Bareilles's "Brave" and a Newsies medley. In October 2012, the group released their first all-hymn album titled *Lead Thou Me On*. Their eighth album, titled *Back in Blue* (2011), features recordings from the 2007-2011 years of Vocal Point.

After starting a YouTube channel in 2013, Vocal Point already has over 80,000 subscribers and 8 million views. They have recorded with The All-American Boys Choir and the 300-voice BYU Men's Chorus. Their music videos have been featured on Good Morning America and the Grammys.

Vocal Point is currently under the direction of former group member McKay Crockett. BYU alumni Bob Ahlander and Dave Boyce organized Vocal Point as a private venture in 1991. Less than three years later, the group joined BYU's School of Music to establish Vocal Point as a permanent tradition of contemporary a cappella at the university.

Vocal Point originates in the office of Performing Arts Management at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. BYU is one of the nation's largest private universities with an enrollment of more than 30,000 students from throughout the United States and 100 foreign countries.

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