
News Release

VOCAL POINT

2015-2016 Season

Brigham Young University

General

Contact: Performing Arts Management
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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 60th Anniversary Diamond Celebration. While there, they also taught workshops for Disney cast members. Vocal Point performed “The Star-Spangled Banner” for an audience of

(more)

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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.

(end)

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Artistic Director

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When Vocal Point takes the stage, the only instruments you hear are created by the nine voices of this nationally-renowned a cappella group. Hailing from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, Vocal Point gives stunning, high-energy performances that have earned them the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), a spot on NBC's *The Sing-Off*, and a faithful following worldwide.

At the head of this nine-man marvel is McKay Crockett. Under his direction, Vocal Point propels their creative harmonies far beyond the traditional four-part possibilities. With innovative arrangements, choreography, and impressive vocal style, Vocal Point continues to be a trendsetter in the world of a cappella. Crockett was a member of Vocal Point from 2008 until his graduation in 2012 from BYU in Media Music. He played an integral part of Vocal Point's appearance on NBC's hit television show *The Sing-Off* and was a featured member during their successful run on the show. During his final year in the group, Crockett acted as the assistant director of Vocal Point.

As director, he produced the popular Vocal Point album, *Spectrum*, as well as Vocal Point's first ever Christmas album, *He Is Born*, to be released October 9, 2015. Crockett was co-producer for *Lead Thou Me On*, released in 2013, and associate producer for the 2011 release of *Back In Blue*. His arrangement of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" was included on *The Sing-Off Christmas* album, and reached the top 10 of iTunes Holiday Downloads in December 2011.

Crockett shares, "Vocal Point has an incredible history of a cappella excellence. I am grateful to be part of such a wonderful heritage, and am eager to move the Vocal Point legacy forward with innovation and creativity." Vocal Point defines its highly entertaining family-friendly show by keeping their repertoire clean and genuine. "One of my favorite things about a Vocal Point performance is that, unlike a play or musical where the people on

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stage are playing a character, Vocal Point members are simply being themselves,” says Crockett. He adds, “The guys are just as kind, funny, quirky, and good in real life as they appear to be on stage. It’s a pleasure and a gift to work with such upstanding young men.”

When Crockett isn’t working with Vocal Point, he keeps busy with his company, Breakaway Productions, a music and entertainment production company headquartered in Utah. His oversight includes recording albums, writing music, scoring films and television shows, and producing concerts. Crockett’s arrangements and original songs have been published by Sony/Epic Records, Tantara Records, Sounds of Zion, Shadow Mountain Records, and others. In 2012, spring boarding from his experience on *The Sing-Off*, Crockett master-minded a comprehensive youth a cappella summer camp called ReMix Vocal Academy. Over the past few years, nearly 1,000 young vocalists have come from around the world to learn how to better use their gift and the results have been stunning. In addition, he continues to write, arrange, and produce music for artists around the country.

Vocal Point originates in the School of Music of the College of Fine Arts & Communications 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.

(end)

Repertoire

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Vocal Point will perform a selection of songs chosen from those listed below.

Song List:

12 Days of Christmas (Traditional Christmas) Arr. by *Straight No Chaser*

Boy Band Medley (*The Backstreet Boys & N'Sync*) Arr. by McKay Crockett

Brightly Beams Our Father's Mercy (Traditional Hymn) Arr. by McKay Crockett

Frankie Valli Medley (*The Four Seasons*) Arr. by Jon Rose

Happy (*Pharrell Williams*) Arr. by McKay Crockett

i2i (*A Goofy Movie*) Arr. by Keith Evans & McKay Crockett

Nearer My God to Thee (Traditional Hymn) Arr. by James Stevens

Newsies Medley (From Disney's Newsies) Arr. by McKay Crockett & Steve Koplin

I Lived (*OneRepublic*) Arr. by McKay Crockett

Silent Night (Traditional Hymn) Arr. By McKay Crockett

If I Lose Myself (*OneRepublic*) Arr. Keith Evans

Some Kind of Wonderful (*Grand Funk Railroad*) Arr. McKay Crockett

One Single Bell (*Denny Crockett*) Arr. McKay Crockett

Get Up and Dance (*Walk the Moon*) Arr. McKay Crockett

Nuttin' for Christmas (Holiday Novelty Song) Arr. Buck Mangum, Keith Evans

Download the new Vocal Point Christmas album, He Is Born, on iTunes, Amazon, or Google Play. CD available for purchase from byumusicstore.com

VOCAL

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

POINT



**MAXIMUM
A CAPPELLA**

Fact Sheet

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- Vocal Point is BYU's premiere pop a cappella ensemble. The group's nine male voices deliver a high-energy show that combines harmony, humor and remarkable vocal percussion into a powerful style with unique personality.
- The group has produced 10 music videos, which have been featured on Good Morning America and the Grammy Awards Ceremony. Their YouTube channel now has 85,000 subscribers and over 9 million views.
- Vocal Point recently released their most anticipated and requested album, *He Is Born*, a Christmas-themed collection of songs, in 2015. This follows the release of *Spectrum* in 2014 and *Lead Thou Me On* in 2012.
- In 2011, Vocal Point appeared on NBC's hit television show, "The Sing-Off," where they performed and were included in the top five final groups of this national a cappella competition.
- Vocal Point was invited to perform in the Disneyland 60th Anniversary Diamond Celebration twice in 2015, including putting on workshops and special private performances for cast members.
- Vocal Point performed in front of over 80,000 audience members in the nationally televised Boy Scouts of America Centennial Celebration at Fort AP Hill in Kentucky in 2010
- In 2006, Vocal Point won first place in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) at a performance in New York City. In 2011, they returned and placed first runner-up at the finals.
- Vocal Point has performed across the United States, traveling everywhere from Washington, DC to Alaska and Hawaii, as well as many states in between.
- Vocal Point's varied repertoire includes rock, pop, country, jazz, R&B, spiritual, and other musical styles. The group is geared to entertain audiences of all ages.
- Many musical numbers in the ensemble's repertoire were originally intended for complex instrumentation but have been adapted by members of the group for performance using only the voice.
- Students Bob Ahlander and Dave Boyce founded Vocal Point in September of 1991 as a private venture. Vocal Point became Brigham Young University's newest performing group in 1994 when it joined with BYU's School of Music to establish a permanent tradition of a cappella music at BYU.
- At the invitation of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee, Vocal Point performed at nearly every major venue for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.
- Vocal Point is currently directed by McKay Crockett, a former member of Vocal Point.

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Quotes

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“They’re so pro. They’re so entertaining. They have so much personality. But there is this intangible thing – where the singer is completely being himself and is translating something that you can’t even put your finger on, but you know it’s big.”

Ben Folds, judge of NBC’s The Sing-Off

“You guys have this overall stage presence, charisma thing that just seems so effortless for you.”

Sarah Bareilles, judge of NBC’s The Sing-Off

“Everyone knows that Vocal Point is a professional a capella group whose members all happen to go to college.”

Ben Bram, Grammy Award Winning Producer of Pentatonix

“It was Vocal Point’s slow song that really showed me they deserved the championship – impressive as their other two tunes were! . . . It wasn’t because Vocal Point did a slow song... it was because they did it amazingly well. That’s what a competition is all about.”

Anonymous ICCA Judge

“Say what you will, debate to your collective hearts’ content, but from my vantage point and to my ear, BYU won the thing hands down, no questions asked – all the more impressive given that the randomly selected performance order had them going on first. You may quibble with the style of music they performed – vocal jazz, through a personal fave of mine, might be considered “old school” or at least atypical for ICCAs – but their performances had everything one should look for in a champion: technical and musical precision, choreography, humor, polish, style, and flair. At the end of the day, it’s about the music, and no ensemble sang better that evening than Vocal Point, and that, combined with the fabulous show they put on in just 12 minutes, made them deserving winners.”

Elie Landau, Recorded A Cappella Review Board (RARB) Reviewer

“The vocal quality was superb, the choreography was fun, and the enthusiasm was exciting. . . . Vocal Point is professional in every way. . . . The college students and local community members were thrilled with the performance.”

Martha Holloway, Associate Professor of Music at Western Wyoming Community College

“These state dinners are our finest effort to entertain, and we invited Vocal Point to punctuate the evening. And you did it so well.”

Utah Governor Mike Leavitt

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Tour History

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- 2015-2016 Will give nightly performances in Nauvoo, Illinois.
- 2014-2015 Invited as special guests to perform twice in Disneyland, California at the park's 60th Anniversary Diamond Celebration. Performed in California, Utah, the Utah State Prison,
- 2013-2014 Performed in Utah, Idaho, Montana, Arizona.
- 2012-2013 Performed in Utah, Idaho, Arizona, Hawaii, and Illinois.
- 2011-2012 Performed in Utah, Idaho, and Illinois.
- 2010-2011 Traveled to Oregon, Los Angeles and New York City to compete in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella. They won first place in the west region quarterfinals, where they won best vocalist and best choreography. In California, they won the west region semifinals, also winning best vocalist and best choreography. In New York City, Vocal Point placed second place at the international level and received an award for best vocalist.
- Competed in NBC's *The Sing-Off* in California in the summer of 2011. Performed for an estimated 5.3 million viewers. Included in the top five groups of the competition.
- 2009-2010 Entertained over ten thousand during a two-week tour in Illinois and Iowa. Performed for an audience of over 80,000 in a televised performance at the Boy Scouts of America Centennial Celebration at Fort AP Hill in Kentucky
- 2008-2009 Toured throughout Utah, Idaho, and Wyoming
- 2006-2007 Won first place in the west quarterfinals of the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) competition in Berkley, Calif., and also won awards for outstanding arrangement and choreography.
- 2005-2006 Won first place at the ICCA finals in Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. Competed in ICCA at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, where the group placed first in both the quarterfinals and semifinals. Performed at the 12th annual A Cappella Festivella at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Toured regionally to California and Arizona.
- 2004-2005 Competed in the ICCA competition at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California where the group placed first in the quarter-finals. Toured to the Washington, DC area. Spent time in Nauvoo, Illinois. Performed locally in Utah and regionally in California and Wyoming.
- 2003-2004 Competed in the ICCA competition at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California where the group placed first in the quarter-finals and first in the semi-finals. Vocal Point declined the invitation to compete in nationals, held in New York, because the competition fell on a Sunday. Vocal Point also completed a successful three week tour to Nauvoo, Illinois, in June where they performed for over

6,000 locals and visitors.

- 2002-2003 Competed in the ICCA competition at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California where the group placed first in the quarter-finals and second in the semi-finals. They also performed in several venues in Arizona and at Brigham Young University-Idaho.
- 2000-2001 Competed in the ICCA competition in Denver, Colorado, and at Stanford University in California. Performed for sell-out crowds in eastern Idaho and at Oregon State University. Invited to participate with seven other universities in Big Men on Campus 2000 at Notre Dame University and Indiana University. The event include two live concerts and participation in a compilation album.
- 1999-2000 Performed for Provo Arts Council, Utah County Junior Miss pageant, and the Freedom Festival during their fall season. Also participated in many corporate functions in Utah during the holiday season. Won first place at the regional semifinal competition of the National Championships of Collegiate A Cappella held in Colorado Springs, a victory that advanced them to runner-up to the national champions in the Western Region Finals held in San Francisco. Took a mini-tour to Idaho where they performed at Ricks College in Rexburg, six high school assemblies, and two evening performances in Blackfoot and Idaho Falls. Took mini-tour to Oregon, where they did five school assemblies and a concert in Corvallis at Oregon State University's Milam Hall.
- 1998-1999 Performed in Utah, California, and Idaho, including a concert for Governor Mike Leavitt and his guests at the Governor's Mansion in Salt Lake City. In addition to concerts, worked with high school choral programs by conducting workshops and fund-raising projects. Performed a benefit concert for Habitat for Humanity. Performed at 3-Comm Stadium in July for a San Francisco Giants game.
- 1997-1998 Entertained audiences in Utah, including the Utah Paramedics Association and Deseret Management Corporation, as well as in Idaho. Participated in an A Cappella Summit held by the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America (CASA) in California.
- 1996-1997 Performed in Utah and Idaho. Sang for a fund-raising event for the Cure Autism Now (CAN) Foundation and performed at a First Night event on New Year's Eve as part of the Temple Square Concert Series.
- 1995-1996 Performed for hundreds of students at school assemblies in Utah and Idaho. Performed at numerous corporate and campus functions during the holiday season. Invited to perform at the Annual President's Dinner for State Senators and Partners in Salt Lake City, Utah. Did two benefit concerts for the Prader-Willi Syndrome Foundation of Primary Children's Hospital, as well as for the Special Olympics. Took mini-tour to Idaho, which concluded with a concert for the Idaho Republican Party Convention.
- 1994-1995 Performed at various corporate functions, and conducted several high school workshops throughout Utah and Idaho. Also did concert for University Presidents in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC).
- 1993-1994 Performed in various capacities in both Utah and Idaho. Also did benefit concerts for Liver Transplant Fund Raiser and Provo Center for Women and Children in Crisis. Became an official part of BYU's School of Music.

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Brigham Young University

presents

VOCAL POINT

Look for these photos and more online at www.pam.byu.edu.

