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 have won them the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA) and a faithful following throughout the world. Two years ago, the group competed on NBC’s The Sing-Off. Each week, Vocal Point and other a cappella groups performed and were judged by recording artists Ben Folds, Sara Bareilles, and Shawn Stockman. After several weeks of competing, Vocal Point was eliminated from the competition but not before becoming one 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. In July 2010, Vocal Point performed “The Star-Spangled Banner” for an audience of over 80,000 at the Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree in West Virginia.
America (BSA) Centennial Celebration. Vocal Point 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. In August 2005, The Faith-Centered Music Association awarded the group three Pearl Awards, including best performing artist and best recording group. In February 2002, 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.

In March 2011 they released their eighth album titled Back in Blue, featuring recordings from the 2007-2011 years of Vocal Point. In October 2012, the group released their first all-hymn album titled Lead Thou Me On. Most recently in 2014, the group released Spectrum, rearranging popular tunes including Sara Bareilles’s “Brave” and a Newsies medley. Vocal Point is the best-selling artist for BYU Records, and one of the best sellers for Deseret Book.

After starting a YouTube channel in 2013, Vocal Point already has over 50,000 subscribers and 3 million views. Their music videos were 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 110 foreign countries.

(end)
News Release

October 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

They have percussion without drums. They have a rhythm section without 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 have won them the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella (ICCA), a spot on NBC’s The Sing-Off, and a faithful following throughout the world.

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. During his final year in the group, Crockett acted as the assistant director of Vocal Point.

Crockett acted as Associate Producer for the latest Vocal Point CD, Back In Blue, and is co-producer for their album released in October 2013, Lead Thou Me On. Most recently, he played an integral part of Vocal Point’s appearance on NBC’s hit television show The Sing-Off. Crockett was a featured member during their successful run on the show. 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.

So what can you expect to experience at a Vocal point concert? Crockett said, “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 it’s 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 stage are playing a character, with Vocal Point they are simply being themselves,” Crockett said. “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 as the CEO of Breakaway Productions, a music and entertainment production company headquartered in Utah. His oversight includes recording albums, writing music, scoring films/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. 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 110 foreign countries.

(end)
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
Believer (American Authors) Arr. by Bryce Romney & Paker O’Very
Boy Band Medley (The Backstreet Boys & N’Sync) Arr. by McKay Crockett
Brave (Sara Bareilles) Arr. by Scott Shattuck
Brightly Beams Our Father’s Mercy (Traditional Hymn) Arr. by McKay Crockett
Eine Kleine Nachtmusik (Mozart) Arr. by Keith Evans
Everybody’s Got Somebody But Me (Hunter Hayes) Arr. by Keith Evans
Fine By Me (Andy Grammer) Arr. by Andy Nielsen, Jordan Hale, Devin Flake and Scott Shattuck
Frankie Valli Medley (The Four Seasons) Arr. by Jon Rose
Happy (Pharrell Williams) Arr. by McKay Crockett
Home for Me (Vocal Point) Arr. Keith Evans & McKay Crockett
I Need Thee Every Hour (Traditional Hymn) Arr. by McKay Crockett
i2i (A Goofy Movie) Arr. by Keith Evans & McKay Crocket
Nearer My God to Thee (Traditional Hymn) Arr. by James Stevens
Newsies Medley (From Disney’s Newsies) Arr. by McKay Crockett & Steve Koplin
One Song, 20 Styles (Vocal Point)
Rhythm of the Night (DeBarge) Arr. by McKay Crockett & Keith Evans
Set Fire to the Rain (Adele) Arr. by Scott Shattuck
THX/Spiderman Theme (Michael Buble) Arr. by Rickey Parkinson

Download the new Vocal Point album on iTunes, Amazon, or Google Play. CD available for purchase from byumusicstore.com
Vocal Point, Brigham Young University’s renowned nine-man a cappella group, combines harmony, humor, and remarkable vocal percussion into a thrilling showcase. Members are selected for their musical ability, creativity, and stage presence—the result is exceptional sound and original, spirited performances.

In 2007 Vocal Point was voted the nation’s favorite male collegiate a cappella group in the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America’s A Cappella Community Awards. In 2006 Vocal Point took first place in the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella held in New York City. In 2005 Vocal Point received three Faith-Centered Music Association “Pearl Awards,” including Best Group Recording Artist and Best Performing Artist of the Year. In 2002 Vocal Point was selected to perform at nearly every major venue during the Salt Lake Winter Olympic Games.

The ensemble regularly records albums through Tantara Records, their latest release being in the fall of 2007.

That’s about the most professional group at the collegiate level anywhere. Seriously, that’s as close as anyone could ever get to being a rock star.

—Deke Sharon, founder of the Contemporary A Cappella Society (CASA)

Their performances had everything one should look for in a champion: technical and musical precision, choreography, humor, polish, style, and flair.

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

Vocal Point is an impressive, high-energy group that made our event soar . . . You . . . represent Utah so well.

—Mrs. Jackie Leavitt, wife of former Utah governor Mike Leavitt

Vocal Point originates in the College of Fine Arts and Communications’ School of Music at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

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VOCAL POINT
Brigham Young University

Contact: Performing Arts Management
(801) 422-3576
perform@byu.edu

- 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.

- In 2013, Vocal Point began a YouTube channel which now has 50,000 subscribers and over 3 million views. Their music videos have been featured on Good Morning America and the Grammy Awards Ceremony.

- 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 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. They returned to this same competition for the 2011 season and placed first runner-up at the finals.

- Vocal Point has performed across the United States, traveling everywhere from Washington, DC to Alaska as well as several stops in 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.

- 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 over 30,000 students from the United States and 120 foreign countries.
“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

“My family was able to watch Vocal Point at Nauvoo this summer and thoroughly enjoyed the program. Quite frankly, my husband and I have been to three Michael Bublé concerts and enjoyed Vocal Point just as much – which is a huge compliment!”

Sally Wothe, Wisconsin, September

“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
Tour History

October 2014

VOCAL POINT

Brigham Young University

Contact: Performing Arts Management
(801) 422-3576
perform@byu.edu


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.


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.

(end)
The Sing-Off's' Vocal Point Tries to 'Conquer the World with Happiness'

By Amy and Nancy Harrington, Pop-Culture Passions | Yahoo Contributor Network - Tue, Nov 22, 2011 09:50 PM EST

Last week on "The Sing-Off," the Brigham Young University group Vocal Point was eliminated from the competition. For nine weeks on the show the college students had one mission — to uplift audiences through music. In a recent exclusive interview, members McKay Crockett, Jake Hunsker and Tyler Sterling spoke about this philosophy and their time on the show.

Vocal Point is a 20-year institution on the Provo, Utah, college campus. The group is a course offered at BYU for which members receive one college credit, but not just anyone can join. Crockett explained, "At the beginning of the year every year, we have an audition to replace the members of the group who go on to graduate or other things... A lot of guys show up every year that want to be a member of the group, and so it's always a tough process to decide who's going to become the new members and carry on the Vocal Point tradition."

Sterling spoke about this philosophy and their time on the show.

Vocal Point Is 'Upwardly Endearing'

This year's ensemble was lucky enough to be chosen for the a cappella vocal competition "The Sing-Off." And the man saw it as an opportunity to carry their message to a bigger audience. When asked to describe Vocal Point's musical style, Crockett joked, "We like to call ourselves 'upwardly endearing' because we are just goofy guys who love doing what we do. And our musical style is just any style that can bring happiness. As part of 'The Sing-Off,' we were able to expand our horizons and open ourselves up to new genres, and it was a real testament to us that there's positive and inspiring music in any genre that you like. It's just a matter of finding those songs and singing them. And so our style is just a clean-cut, fun, upbeat style that tries to share happiness with those who are listening."

Vocal Point Channels Michael Buble

Hunsker revealed that his personal influence is crooner Michael Buble. "I do that big band kind of crooner kind of style. I feel like my voice does that the easiest, and I enjoy the style of music and so that's what I tend to do."

But Buble does not just inspire Hunsker. Sterling pointed out, "Michael Buble really is just a great performer... If you've never been to one of his concerts, he does such a great job of engaging the audience and letting the audience feel like you are a part of his concert experience while he is on stage. I think Vocal Point does that and translates that really, really well. Whatever it is they're doing on stage, they really try to be engaging and make the audience feel like they are a part of the experience that Vocal Point is having on stage."

Vocal Point Carries On With New Members Each Year

While the members of the group change as each graduation ceremony rolls around, the tradition of Vocal Point carries on. In fact, Hunsker noted that the best advice they got during the competition came from judge Shawn Stockman who pleaded, "Don't you dare stop because you have people who love what you do and people who connect with what you sing. And so make sure that this propely you guys forward and isn't the end for you."

And that is precisely what Vocal Point plans to do, Hunsker noted. "This Sing-Off has been this amazing opportunity for us to extend to those who know us and expand the way we're able to share our music and our message with people. And so for us, it's really just the beginning of something that has been going for 20 years and will continue to grow from here. "The Sing-Off" has really just propelled us all forward in a way that probably couldn't have happened in any other capacity."

Despite being eliminated from the show just two weeks shy of the finale, Sterling said they have no regrets. "All of us were extremely happy with the outcome of the show. We went on the show like it was portrayed in the very first episode — that we wanted to, as a kind of a joke, 'conquer the world with happiness.' And every week as we selected our songs and we made our arrangements and did our choreography, that was never something we ever let out of sight."

And even though their version of The Temptations' "Ain't Too Proud to Beg" may have been their downfall, they performed it with the best intentions in mind. "We put a lot of effort into making sure that that song was something that was going to uplift our audience members and our followers. And with that being said, I think we're really happy and pleased with the outcome of what we were able to accomplish on the show, the growth that we saw in ourselves, and also the limits that we were able to push Vocal Point to for future generations of the group. We're really excited to see what happens in the future."

Watch "The Sing-Off" Mondays at 8 p.m. E.T. on NBC.

More from this contributor:

The Latest Group Eliminated from Sing-Off Discuss Their Trip to Kenya
North Shore and the Deltones Deliver Their Sing-Off Debut Songs

Follow @YahooTV on Twitter, become a fan on Facebook.
Vocal Point well taken

This week’s Hot Ticket suggestion will not cost you a thing. All you need is a television and a working remote.

We suggest staying in this Monday night and watching local lad Vocal Point in action on NBC’s “The Sing-Off” at 7 p.m. The Brigham Young University male a cappella group has been earning rave reviews after receiving a no on the national talent show and advancing into the top five after the last week’s competition. The show’s three celebrity judges — Sara Bareilles, Ben Folds and Shawn Stockman — have been lamenting the group from the beginning and seem to enjoy having some fun with the band’s squeaky-clean image.

This past week, Vocal Point advanced with unique takes on The Knocks classic “You Really Got Me” and “Live a Little” by Rascal Flatts.

For those of you who prefer an actual ticket to see Vocal Point, you can prepare for that, too. Vocal Point will be performing at the Covey Center for the Arts on Nov. 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m., with a 5 p.m. matinee on the 18th as well. Tickets are $18.92 and available at www.coveycenter.org.

Doug Fox
Vocal Point is one step closer to winning ‘The Sing-Off’ title

BY SHARON HADDOCK
FOR THE DESERET NEWS

SANDY — Hundreds of Vocal Point fans cheered as the Brigham Young University men’s cappella group stayed in the running on NBC’s “The Sing-Off” Monday night.

The nine-man cappella sensation worried the judges with “You Really Got Me,” by the Kinks, as its rock ’n’ roll hit, and “Life is a Highway,” by Rascal Flats, as its country hit.

The judges said the “Utah boys” came off a tough week with a strong showing as the group’s members started back to class in the middle of competition.

Sometimes we rehearsed in the airport shuttle,” said Ross Welch, one of the Vocal Point singers.

Delilah — the female group comprised of singers from the above’s first two segments, including Mormon lead singer Amy Lynn Whitcomb and vocalists Lulua Walker — was University.

“Vocal Point is the opportunity to be on the show with an audition tape, selected as one of 16 groups to be on the nationally televised show. The groups have been whittled down to five: Vocal Point; Pentatonix from Arizona, Texas; Urban Method from Denver; Collab, the Dartmouth Aires from Dartmouth (which includes singer/Director Nick Chang) from Salt Lake City, and A Cappella from Howard.

Vocal Point won the opportunity to be on the show with an audition tape, selected as one of 16 groups to be on the nationally televised show.

Play explanation that they had access to network choreographers and arrangers but got so used to working together over the weeks they tapped the shows that they basically arranged everything themselves.

Vocal Point members attended the party at Jordan Commons Megaplex Theaters Wednesday night surrounded by more than 200 fans and friends.

weekly article from the Deseret News in Salt Lake City, UT (November 9, 2011)