



# Advance Program Notes

*Vocalosity*

*The Aca-perfect Concert Experience*

**Saturday, February 20, 2016, 7:30 PM**

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

**Work Light Productions and IMG Artists present**

## **VOCAL**OSITY

THE **ACA-PERFECT** CONCERT EXPERIENCE

**Artistic Producer, Music Director, and Arranger**

Deke Sharon

**Director and Choreographer**

Seán Curran

**Creative Consultants**

Robert Sternin and Prudence Fraser

**Vocalists**

James C. Jones, Hannah Juliano, Kelli Koloszar, Cheeyang Ng, Gerianne Pérez, Nattalyee Randall, Tracy L. J. Robertson, Chesney Snow, Bryant Vance, Nicole Weiss, Amy Whitcomb, and RJ Woessner

**Technical Director, Sound Designer, and Live Engineer:** Tony Huerta

**Lighting Design:** Ryan J. O'Gara

**Costume Design:** Amy Clark

**Scenic Consultant:** Mike East

**Casting Director:** Wojcik-Seay Casting

**Production Management:** Technical Theater Solutions

**Tour Press and Marketing:** Type A Marketing

**General Management:** Work Light Productions

**Tour Booking Agency:** IMG Artists

**Head Electrician:** David Inabinette

**Company Manager:** Rebecca Eddins



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# *A Note from Deke Sharon*

In the beginning, there was only the voice. Like birds, crickets, and whales, we can't help but sing, and as civilizations rose and fell, cultures grew and changed, vocal music has always been central. From gatherings around the fire at the end of a hunt to soaring Gregorian chants echoing in vaulted cathedrals to madrigals, barbershop, and doo-wop, people have always had an innate desire to create harmony around the greatest music of their time. *Vocalosity* is a celebration of that tradition and an exploration of the current sound of a cappella, in hopes of introducing a new generation to the oldest music in the world and inspiring people of all ages to "sing for your life!"

*Vocalosity* is my dream team, an all-star ensemble of diverse young singers, each with a unique style and personality that sets a new standard for 12-part harmony. Most vocal groups aspire to create one sound and style, homogenizing the character of their singers, but this group is the exact opposite, weaving a variety of tapestries from different combinations of voices and characters.

We hope *Vocalosity* inspires you to sing. If you'd like more information about finding a vocal group in your area, visit [acappellaleague.org](http://acappellaleague.org), [barbershop.org](http://barbershop.org), [chorusamerica.org](http://chorusamerica.org), and [sweetadelineintl.org](http://sweetadelineintl.org). And if you'd like to start your own group, visit [acappella.how](http://acappella.how) and don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can help at [deke@dekesharon.com](mailto:deke@dekesharon.com).

—Deke Sharon

## *Biographies*

### **JAMES C. JONES**, *bass*

After James C. Jones received a bachelor of science degree in psychology from Brigham Young University (BYU), he worked various projects featuring several artists, including Flava Flav, Miranda Sings, and Danny Trejo. Most recently, he toured nationally with Ball in the House, a Boston-based R&B/soul-pop vocal band.

### **HANNAH JULIANO**, *alto and associate music director*

Hannah Juliano is an arranger, vocalist, producer, and director. She studied contemporary writing and production at Berklee College of Music and resides in New York City. Her work highlights include Pepsi, Mazda, and MTV, and she heads the music division at Borderlight Entertainment. She thanks her family, friends, Deke Sharon, and her sweetheart for their unconditional love, support, and understanding.

### **KELLI KOLOSZAR**, *soprano*

Kelli Koloszar has performed all over the world, singing on cruise ships for Holland America Line and touring with international cirque performers as a lead singer with Cirque Productions, as well as with the Rockettes as Mrs. Claus on The Radio City Christmas Spectacular tour. Koloszar received a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theatre from Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. For more information, please visit [www.kellikoloszar.com](http://www.kellikoloszar.com).

### **CHEEYANG NG**, *tenor*

Cheeyang Ng is thrilled to be touring with *Vocalosity*. Born and raised in Singapore, he has performed internationally in Taiwan, China, and Singapore. In the U.S., he has performed at Avery Fisher Hall (Lincoln Center), Al Hirschfeld Theatre (Broadway Backwards), and regional theatres across the country. For more information, please visit [www.cheeyang.com](http://www.cheeyang.com).

# *Biographies, continued*

## **GERIANNE PÉREZ**, *alto*

Gerianne Pérez's favorite credits include Rizzo in *Grease* (North Shore Music Theatre); Chloe in *Bubbly Boy* (American Theatre Group); Marisol in *Volleygirls* (New York Musical Theatre Festival); and various concerts at Joe's Pub, Town Hall, and 54 Below. Pérez received a bachelor of fine arts from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Much love to BRS/Gage and her wonderful family and friends, without whom this would not be possible.

## **NATTALYEE RANDALL**, *alto*

Nattalyee Randall currently lives in New York City, but she's originally from Springfield, Illinois (Land of Lincoln). Randall has a degree in music and English education (Western Illinois University) and has recently reignited her passion for a cappella music thanks to Deke Sharon. Prov. 24:10. Much love to LNT. Tweet me @nattalyee or check out [www.nattalyee.com](http://www.nattalyee.com).

## **TRACY L. J. ROBERSTON**, *vocal percussion*

As a singer, director, multi-instrumentalist, and vocal percussionist, Tracy L. J. Robertson enjoys working and performing in a wide variety of musical settings and is honored to now take part in *Vocalosity*. He also performs with Boston-based Overboard and continues spreading his passion for music as a clinician, arranger, composer, and performer.

## **CHESNEY SNOW**, *vocal percussion*

Chesney Snow is a Drama Desk Award-winning theatre artist and pioneering figure of American beatbox. He was a 2014 artist-in-residence at Harvard University and is currently working on the Broadway-bound a cappella musical, *In Transit*, which received the most award nominations of any off-Broadway musical of the 2010-2011 season. Snow is an accomplished songwriter, and his album, *Spoken Love*, is available on Warner Music.

## **BRYANT VANCE**, *bass*

Bryant Vance is a bass vocalist from New York City. After earning a bachelor of arts degree in theatre, he made his a cappella debut with Voca People performing off-Broadway, followed by a world tour of 18 countries over three years. He is very excited to have found a home in *Vocalosity* and thanks his family for the love and endless support! For more information, please visit [www.bryantcvance.com](http://www.bryantcvance.com) and find him as @bryantcvance on Instagram, Twitter, and Periscope.

## **NICOLE WEISS**, *mezzo*

Nicole Weiss is beyond thrilled to be a part of *Vocalosity*. She earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in theatre from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where she was a proud member of N'Harmonics. She writes and performs with several music projects, including The Shirtwaist Sisters and Roslynn. For more information, please visit [www.nicoleweiss.com](http://www.nicoleweiss.com) or find her on Twitter as @upwardsomething.

## **AMY WHITCOMB**, *soprano*

Amy Whitcomb is a beach-loving, bodybuilding pop-rocker from Longwood, Florida. Whitcomb graduated in music from Brigham Young University and since has toured internationally with Delilah, competed on NBC's *The Voice*, and has starred in various stage productions, including New York Musical Theatre Festival 2015's *Deep Love*. Whitcomb works as a vocal coach while pursuing performance.

## **RJ WOESSNER**, *tenor*

RJ Woessner is a Brooklyn-based actor, musician, and voiceover artist. Woessner studied contemporary writing and production at the Berklee College of Music. He has provided background vocals for Bastille and Jim Carrey. His TV credits include *The Sing-Off* (Season 2), *Saturday Night Live*, *Late Show with David Letterman*, and *One Life To Live*. His New York City theatre credits include *Plath* (NYCFringe) and *Motel Rasdell* (directed by Donnie Kehr). Woessner is an active voice over artist and vocal music arranger. For more information, please visit [www.rjwoessner.com](http://www.rjwoessner.com) and find him on Twitter as @rjwoessner.

# *Biographies, continued*

**DEKE SHARON**, *music director, arranger, and artistic producer*

Born in San Francisco, Deke Sharon has been performing professionally since the age of eight and, as a child, toured North America and shared the stage in operas with the likes of Pavarotti. Heralded as “the father of contemporary a cappella,” he is responsible for the current sound of modern a cappella, having created the dense vocal-instrumental sound in college and subsequently spreading it around the world. Sharon produces *The Sing-Off* worldwide (in the U.S., Netherlands, China, and South Africa), which had the highest ratings of any new, unscripted television show in the U.S. in 2009, and was the third highest-rated show on NBC in 2010. Sharon served as arranger, on-site music director, and vocal producer for Universal’s *Pitch Perfect* and *Pitch Perfect 2*, starring Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson. As the founder, director, and arranger for the House Jacks, the original “rock band without instruments,” Sharon has shared the stage with countless music legends, including Ray Charles and James Brown. He appears on the new a cappella television show, *Pitch Slapped*, on Lifetime. Sharon founded the Contemporary A Cappella Society while in college and is responsible for founding many seminal a cappella programs, including the CARAs (Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards), ICCAs (International Championship of College A Cappella), and BOCA (Best of College A Cappella Compilation). He is also contemporary a cappella’s most prolific arranger, having arranged over 2,000 songs, many of them in print worldwide with Hal Leonard/Contemporary A Cappella Publishing. His first book, *A Cappella Arranging*, was published in 2012, and *A Cappella* was published in 2015. For more information, please visit [www.dekesharon.com](http://www.dekesharon.com) or find him on Twitter as @dekesharon.

**SEÁN CURRAN**, *director and choreographer*

Seán Curran began his dance training with traditional Irish step dancing as a young boy in Boston and went on to make his mark on the dance world as a leading dancer with the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company (1983–1993) and as a performer in the original New York City cast of *Stomp* (1994–1998). His own dance troupe, the Seán Curran Company, tours internationally, and he has created work for companies as diverse as Trinity Irish Dance Company, ABT II, and Denmark’s Upper Cut Company. Opera figures heavily into his work, and he has directed notable productions, including *Salome* for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, San Francisco Opera, and Opera Montreal; *Much Ado About Nothing* and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* for The Shakespeare Theatre; and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary production of *Nixon in China*, *Street Scene*, *Daughter of the Regiment*, and *The Pirates of Penzance* at Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Other choreography credits include numerous works for New York City Opera, the Playwrights Horizons’ production of *My Life with Albertine*, Shakespeare in the Park’s *As You Like It*, and the Metropolitan Opera production of *Romeo and Juliette*. Curran’s work has also appeared on Broadway in James Joyce’s *The Dead* for Playwrights Horizons and *The Rivals* at Lincoln Center Theater. A graduate and faculty member of New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, Curran now serves as chair of the Department of Dance. He has over 20 years of teaching experience in modern technique, improvisation, body percussion, and composition as a visiting artist at the American Dance Festival, Harvard Summer Dance Center, Bates Dance Festival, The Boston Conservatory, and over 100 U.S. university dance departments. He is thrilled to bring his diverse palette to the world of a cappella.

**ROBERT STERNIN AND PRUDENCE FRASER**, *creative consultants and musical theatre parody lyricists*

Best known as writer/producers in network television, Robert Sternin and Prudence Fraser’s credits include *Who’s the Boss?* and *The Nanny*, which they developed for and executive produced with series star Fran Drescher. Currently they are concentrating on the theatre, the medium that they find most exciting. Sternin and Fraser recently collaborated with Brill Building songwriter icon Jeff Barry on the stage musical *The Girl Who Would Be King*, which premiered at the Granada Theater in Santa Barbara and went on to be seen at the Stamford Center for the Arts and Riverside Theater in Vero Beach, Florida. Excerpts from their stage comedy, *Under My Skin*, were performed at the American Airlines Theater as part of *The Pink Campaign on Broadway*. The play then had its world premiere at the Pasadena Playhouse under the helm of Tony-nominated director Marcia Milgrom Dodge (*Ragtime*) then moved to the Little Shubert Theatre off-Broadway. Sternin and Fraser are thrilled to be involved in *Vocalosity*. If they could sing, they would!

# *Biographies, continued*

**TONY HUERTA**, *technical director, sound designer, and live engineer*

Tony Huerta is a professional singer, beatboxer, recording studio engineer/producer, and live audio engineer. He is considered to be the world's best a cappella live sound engineer and has mixed almost every major a cappella act in the United States. He has been the front of house engineer and production manager for 10-time Grammy Award-winning group Take 6, traveling to 39 countries thus far. He also recently completed a full U.S. tour of *The Sing Off* as the front of house engineer. What is interesting is that Huerta was a performer and finalist on the NBC's *The Sing Off* in the group Urban Method, who lost in the finals to Pentatonix. Sonic Audio, Huerta's recording studio, was founded in 1999. He has produced, engineered, or mastered a cappella CD projects for The Real Group, Take 6, Harmonia Vocal (from Angola Africa), Afro Blue, Cadence, Six Appeal, Nota a Sony Latin, Face (from Boulder, Colorado, and the NBC's *The Sing Off*) and many more. He also recorded, mixed, and produced the world's first full-length a cappella opera and original stage production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Opera Memphis. As a freelance engineer, he has mixed concerts for many major acts, including Stevie Wonder, Amy Grant, Kirk Whalum, Nnenna Freelon, and Brian McKnight, as well as the 2010 Shakira tour as front of house engineer for Nota.

**AMY CLARK**, *costume designer*

Amy Clark is a New York City-based costume designer, whose work has been seen on Broadway, regional theatres, television, and arenas across the country. Clark's costume designs for Broadway include *A Night with Janis Joplin* and *Chaplin* (Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle nominations). Other recent designs include *Heathers The Musical* (New World Stages); Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey Circus presents *Legends and Chaplin* (St. Petersburg, Russia); *My Life is a Musical* (Bay Street Theate); *Hello, Dolly!* (The MUNY); *Kiss Me, Kate* (Barrington Stage Co.); *Noises Off* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre); *Somewhere* (Hartford Stage); *On Your Toes* (City Center Encores!); and *The Little Mermaid* (Paper Mill Playhouse). Clark received the 2012 Theatre Hall of Fame Emerging Artists Fellowship and received a master of fine arts in costume design from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

**RYAN J. O'GARA**, *lighting designer*

Ryan J. O'Gara's selected New York City credits include *Tail Spin*, *play/date*, *Useless*, *Lady Day*, *Moses of Egypt* (New York City Opera), *Little Prince*, *Knuckle Heads Zoo*, *Black Violin*, *Pinkolandia*, *PS Jones*, *Chix 6*, *Raw Space*, and *The Ride*, as well as various productions for Sonnet Repertory Company, Lincoln Center Festival, Westbeth Theatre Center, Capital Repertory Theatre, and Bristol Riverside Theatre. His dance credits include American Ballet Theatre, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, MOMIX, gloATL, Ballet Hispanico, Cedar Lake Ensemble, Dance Works, and *Revolution* at the Joyce Theatre. His corporate credits include *Celebrity Apprentice*, Michael Kors Jet Set Launch, Antonio Banderas Fragrance Launch, and Nike Rockstar Workout. On Broadway, he has served as the associate lighting designer for *Hamilton*, *Dr. Zhivago*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *After Midnight*, *A Christmas Story*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Magic/Bird*, *How to Succeed...*, *Lombardi*, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *West Side Story*, *Cry Baby*, *Gypsy*, *In the Heights*, *Xanadu*, *LoveMusik*, and *Avenue Q*. O'Gara graduated from North Carolina School of the Arts. For more information, please visit [www.ryanogara.com](http://www.ryanogara.com).

**WORK LIGHT PRODUCTIONS**, *producer and general manager*

Work Light Productions is a producing, general management, and technical supervision company dedicated to creating and producing live entertainment. Productions include the national tours of *Mamma Mia!*, *Avenue Q*, Green Day's *American Idiot*, *In the Heights*, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, The Gershwins' *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, and Julie Andrews' *The Gift of Music*. Upcoming productions include international tours of *Rent* and Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. Work Light Productions consists of founding partners Stephen Gabriel and Nancy Gabriel; general managers Scott Seay, Aniele Fortin, and Kevin Greene; and technical supervisors Rhys Williams and Mike East.

# ***Biographies, continued***

## **IMG ARTISTS**, *producer and booking agency*

IMG Artists is a global leader of performing arts management. For more than 30 years, the company has set the standard for excellence in the industry for artist management, touring, dance, attractions, festivals, events, and cultural consulting. IMG Artists' specialists in offices across three continents offer unparalleled international reach and depth of experience to the company's artists, clients, and partners. With the launch of new producing, presenting, and technology initiatives designed to support and enhance our core business, IMG Artists remains the vanguard of the industry.

## **TECHNICAL THEATER SOLUTIONS**, *production manager*

Technical Theater Solutions is based in Charleston, South Carolina, and provides technical direction and production supervision for the live entertainment industry. Clients include Spoleto Festival USA; Mabou Mines; Disney Cruise Line, Inc.; and Work Light Productions. Recent touring credits include *Mamma Mia!*, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *American Idiot*, *In the Heights*, *Traces USA*, and *Avenue Q*. Technical Theater Solutions is headed by Rhys Williams (president) and Mike East (vice president). For more information, please visit [www.technicaltheatersolutions.com](http://www.technicaltheatersolutions.com).

## **TYPE A MARKETING**, *marketing and press*

Type A Marketing is an independent, full-service marketing company specializing in Broadway and national tours. Broadway credits include *American Psycho*, *Sylvia*, *Tuck Everlasting*, *The Color Purple*, *Les Misérables*, *Kinky Boots*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Tour credits include *Cabaret*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Dirty Dancing*, Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn*, *Vocalosity*, and *Bullets Over Broadway*. For more information, please visit [www.typeamktg.com](http://www.typeamktg.com).

## **WOJCIK | SEAY CASTING**, *casting*

Wojcik | Seay Casting is Scott Wojcik and Gayle Seay. Along with Jessica Gordon, they cast theatre, commercials, television, and film. Tour credits include *Flashdance*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oklahoma!*, and *A Chorus Line*. Off-Broadway credits include *The Two Character Play*, *Triassic Park*, *Handle With Care*, *666*, and *Philosophy For Gangsters*. For more information, please visit [www.wscasting.com](http://www.wscasting.com) or find them on Twitter as @WScasting.

# *Special Thanks*



Songs from *The Sound of Music* are presented by special arrangements with Rodgers & Hammerstein: an Imagen Company.  
For more information, please visit [www.rnh.com](http://www.rnh.com).  
All rights reserved. Music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II.  
*Vocalosity* is powered by Roland's M-5000.

# *Engagement Activities*

Monday, February 15, 2016

## **WORKSHOP WITH DEKE SHARON**

Virginia Tech student a cappella singers will participate in a vocal workshop led by Deke Sharon, vocal producer of Universal's *Pitch Perfect*, NBC's *The Sing-Off*, and artistic director of *Vocalosity*.

Saturday, February 20, 2016

## **MIX #attheMAC**

Prior to the performance of *Vocalosity*, the Center for the Arts—in partnership with Up on the Roof and Blacksburg Young Professionals—will host a reception for young professionals.

Saturday, February 20, 2016

## **MEET-AND-GREET WITH VOCALOSITY PERFORMERS**

Following the performance of *Vocalosity*, a select number of undergraduate student contest winners will meet performers from the show in this private gathering.

*Special thanks to Up on the Roof, Blacksburg Young Professionals, Blacksburg Partnership, PKs, Diane Akers, Krisha Chachra, Jonathan Everett, Matt Lyerly, Sarah Orren, Steven Rains, and Mike Whaley*



# *In the Galleries*

## **QUAYOLA: STRATA #1**

What do animation, sound, image, architecture, and Renaissance art all have in common? They are all integral parts of London-based Italian artist Quayola's Cube installation, *STRATA #1*. Suspended from the ceiling, this spectacular installation deconstructs and combines contemporary digital aesthetics and icons of classical art and architecture into an audio visual experience not to be missed. *STRATA #1* will only be on view until February 28, 2016, so be sure to see this work soon.

## **DATAStream**

February 25, 2016-May 8, 2016

*Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery, Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery, Francis T. Eck Exhibition Corridor*

## **QUAYOLA: STRATA #1**

February 18-28, 2016

*10 days only*

*Cube*

## **DIANA COOPER: GRAND LOBBY WALL MURAL**

February 11, 2016-Spring 2018

*Grand Lobby*

## **GALLERY HOURS**

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; interesting and free!