

NEWS RELEASE

Noteworthy

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A cappella at its finest.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Noteworthy A Cappella Group Crowned World Champions

New York, NY – Performing for a sold-out audience at the Lincoln Center in New York City, one of the collegiate music world’s newest and most exciting contemporary a cappella groups, Noteworthy, took first place at the finals of the 2006 International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella.

A nine-voice, all-female ensemble of students from Brigham Young University, Noteworthy competed Saturday night, April 21st, against the winners of regional finals held across the US, Canada, and Western Europe. The five-member panel of professional adjudicators gave Noteworthy the highest score of the night, giving the ensemble its first ICCA championship. Second place went to Rocktavo from the University of Nebraska, and third place went to The Zumbyes from Amherst College.

To qualify for the finals, Noteworthy had to win first place in both their quarterfinal and semifinal competition rounds. A total of seven groups qualified for the finals in a competition that started with a field of over 150 groups from around the world.

Having been founded just three years ago, Noteworthy was an underdog going into the competition.

“At the beginning of this season, we just focused on trying to win Quarterfinals, something we had never done,” said Noteworthy second-year member Erica Neuffer. “To win Quarterfinals was awesome, to win Semifinals was thrilling, and now to win the International Championship is totally surreal.”

Last year's championship group, Vocal Point, also hails from Brigham Young University. Noteworthy's win on Saturday in New York marks the first time two groups from one school have taken the international championship title.

"It was an incredible night," said Dave Brown, who co-founded Noteworthy at BYU in 2004. "All the groups were phenomenal, making it a fun show to watch. But to see Noteworthy win was literally a dream come true."

Noteworthy's win Saturday night marks only the second time an all-female group has won the competition.

Noteworthy's 12-minute set on Saturday night began with an intense Bulgarian piece entitled "Ergen Deda," which transitioned immediately into a laid back, jazzy version of John Legend's "Don't You Worry." The group then delivered an inspiring rendition of the traditional hymn "How Great Thou Art," arranged by former Noteworthy member and current director Catherine Papworth. Papworth received an award for Most Outstanding Arrangement for that song in both the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds this year. The finale of the group's set was an electrifying version of Stevie Wonder's classic "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," complete with a hip-hop remix.

Noteworthy second-year member Kristin Papworth took home the award for Most Outstanding Choreography.

As a group of nine female students, Noteworthy rehearses between 10 and 20 hours per week, plus at least one performance each week, all in addition to each member's regular school workload. The group's membership goes through a partial rotation each year as members graduate, leave to serve missions, or pursue other interests. Neither the director nor the singers receive any form of compensation. Although Noteworthy is not a university-sponsored group, it has received wide acclaim, performing for tens of thousands each year at sold-out crowds both on and off campus.

More information about Noteworthy can be found at noteworthy ladies.com.

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