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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **A Different Direction Choir Invited to Perform at Carnegie Hall in New York City with Deke Sharon**

New York, N.Y. – September 11, 2018

Outstanding music program receives special invitation

Distinguished Concerts International New York City (DCINY) announced today that Chris Gammon and A Different Direction Choir have been invited to participate in *Total Vocal* – a performance of contemporary a cappella under the creative direction of arranger/producer Deke Sharon (The Sing-Off, Pitch Perfect) – on the DCINY Concert Series in New York City. This performance will take place on Sunday, March 24, 2019 in Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall. These outstanding musicians will join with other choristers from around the world to form the Distinguished Concerts Singers International, a choir of distinction. Deke Sharon will lead the performance and will serve as the clinician for the residency.

Why the invitation was extended

Dr. Jonathan Griffith, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor for DCINY states: “A Different Direction Choir received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers as well as the exceptional quality of their audition recording.”

“It is quite an honor just to be invited to perform in New York. These wonderful musicians not only represent a high quality of music and education, but they also become ambassadors for the entire community. This is an event of extreme pride for everybody and deserving of the community’s recognition and support.”

The singers will spend 5 days and 4 nights in New York City in preparation for their concert. “The singers will spend approximately 9-10 hours in rehearsals over the 5 day residency,” says Griffith. “Not all of the time is spent in rehearsals, since there is so much history and culture to see in New York City. However, the performance is the primary purpose for their visit to the city.” Members of the community are encouraged to give financial support in sending these singers to New York by contacting Chris Gammon at [info@adifferentdirectionchoir.co.uk](mailto:info@adifferentdirectionchoir.co.uk).

Conductor Deke Sharon

Heralded as "The Father of Contemporary A Cappella" and "a one man a cappella revolution" (Boston Globe), Deke Sharon is responsible for the current sound of modern a cappella, and for spreading the dense vocal-instrumental sound around the world.

Deke produces “The Sing-Off” worldwide (USA, the Netherlands, China,

South Africa), which had the highest ratings of any new, unscripted television show in the US in 2009, and was the third highest rated show on NBC in 2010. In addition, Deke served as arranger, on-site music director and vocal producer for Universal's "Pitch Perfect" & "Pitch Perfect 2" & "Pitch Perfect 3" starring Anna Kendrick & Rebel Wilson.

Deke founded the Contemporary A Cappella Society while in college, and is responsible for many seminal a cappella programs, including the CARAs (Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards, ICCAs (International Championship of College A Cappella), BOCA (Best of College A Cappella Compilations), the first contemporary a cappella conferences (the A Cappella Summit), the Contemporary A Cappella League, the professional ensembles Voasis and Vocalosity, and Camp A Cappella. His latest project for Disney – D Cappella – launches in spring 2018.

He is also contemporary a cappella's most prolific arranger, having arranged over 2,000 songs, with many of them in print worldwide with Hal Leonard/Contemporary A Cappella Publishing. He has written 5 books: "Acappella Arranging" (2012), "A Cappella" (2015), "The Heart of Vocal Harmony" (2016), "A Cappella Warmups for Pop and Jazz Choir" (2017) and "So You Want To Sing A Cappella" (2017). He is also the vocal orchestrator for the Broadway's first a cappella musical: In Transit (2016).

As the founder, director and arranger for the House Jacks for almost 25 years, the original "Rock Band Without Instruments," Deke shared the stage with countless music legends, including Ray Charles, James Brown, Crosby Stills and Nash, Run DMC, The Temptations, LL Cool J and the Four Tops, and performed for luminaries including President Bill Clinton. The House Jacks have eight albums, and dozens of international tours to their names, including multiple appearances Carnegie Hall, and performed the Monday Night Football Theme with Hank Williams Jr. in 2011.

He has produced dozens of award winning a cappella albums (including Straight No Chaser, Committed, Nota, Street Corner Symphony and the Tufts Beelzebubs), created a cappella groups for Disneyland and Disneyworld, and frequently tours the world teaching a variety of topics to students and professional singers. He is one of only 20 honorary members of the Barbershop Harmony Society since 1938, as well as an honorary member of BYU Vocal Point, and received CASA's lifetime achievement award in 2016 and the PT Barnum Award for Excellence from Tufts University in 2017. Perhaps you saw him on Lifetime Television's "Pitch Slapped" coaching Stay Tuned from Cherry Hill New Jersey (2016). He can now be seen on BBC One's "Pitch Battle" in the UK (2017).

DCINY Productions

Founded by Iris Derke and Jonathan Griffith, Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY) is the leading producer of dynamically charged musical excellence. With its unforgettable concert experiences in renowned venues, empowering educational programs, and its global community of artists and audiences, DCINY changes lives through the power of performance.

Tickets

For more information on tickets, group sales or other special offers, please contact us at 212-707-8566 Ext. 307, or [BoxOffice@DCINY.org](mailto:BoxOffice@DCINY.org).

Contact, Interviews, and Photos

To acquire high-resolution images of DCINY performances at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center for media use, interviews, and press requests, please contact [Press@DCINY.org](mailto:Press@DCINY.org).

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