

# 2012 Arts Festival A cappella Program

In the Fall 2011, the Arts Council's subcommittee for Arts Festival Programming examined the Arts Festival's program from many angles and determined that some improvements needed to be made to the quality of the artistic output in some categories – and in particular, where student artists are not faculty or professionally-led. As a result, the committee members resolved to look for opportunities to introduce professional mentors into the festival preparation process for some student groups. In addition, registration and audition standards will be raised so that the quality of the festival's programming becomes more even.

A cappella groups in particular have had a festival history of uneven performances. The artistic quality of the groups has varied significantly from year to year, and most groups have only sporadically given attention to the quality of their presentation. Therefore, the program for a cappella groups will be changed significantly.

This will affect A capella groups in three ways:

1. The Arts Council will sponsor 1 Master Class workshop led by 5'O Clock Shadow on February 26th. This workshop will focus on vocal artistry as well as concept development and presentation. To be eligible for performance in this year's Arts Festival, all members of each a capella group are required to attend.
2. The audition process will be somewhat more rigorous this year, with a panel of vocal professionals (faculty and alumni) evaluating the performance level of individual songs. A capella groups will be auditioning with *specific songs*. If selected, this is the song(s) that your group has been chosen to perform. Alterations to your set will not be permitted. These songs will be entered in an "A capella Showcase" that will feature a variety of songs and groups. Furthermore, for groups that audition several pieces, the committee may be more selective on the number of pieces that are included in the Festival Showcases. Please note again, that you will be auditioning *songs*, not your group.
3. The performance showcases will be organized a bit differently this year. The "Critics Choice" showcase will present pieces selected by the audition committee as achieving the highest level of quality – all forms of vocals are eligible for this showcase. The "A capella Showcase" will occur daily during the festival, and feature pieces from all groups. These songs will be arranged by the Arts Council and you will be notified the specific time slot your group will be performing the chosen songs.
4. *Note:* It is possible that more than one song can be chosen from each group for the festival. It will depend on the quality of the songs performed.

## 2012 Arts Festival A Cappella Schedule

Sunday, February 26 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-5:30 pm.	A Capella Master Class
Sunday April 1 <sup>st</sup>	2:00-5:00 pm.	Auditions in Devlin 008
Thursday April 26 <sup>th</sup>	3:00-3:30 pm.	Arts Festival A Capella Showcass
Friday April 27 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-3:15 pm.	Arts Festival A Capella Showcase
Saturday April 28 <sup>th</sup>	2:30-3:00 pm.	Arts Festival A Capella Critics Choice

\*Times may change as schedules are completed.

## Panel of Judges

Cathi Ianno, Arts Festival Director

Seb Bonaiuto, Director of Bands

JoJo David, BC bOp! Vocal Director and professional vocalist

Oren Malika, Five O'Clock Shadow

Faculty member TBA, Music department

## Criteria for the Auditions

1. Artistry
  - a. quality of the arrangement
  - b. effectiveness of soloist(s)
  - c. genuine execution/sincerity
2. Musicianship
  - a. intonation
  - b. rhythm/groove
  - c. vocal balance/blend
  - d. dynamics
  - e. accuracy
3. Presentation
  - a. song selection/genre diversity
  - b. stage presence/poise
  - c. visual style