

DCAPPELLA

100% VOICE 100% DISNEY

Imagine classics from the Disney songbook and beyond brought to life by nothing more than seven dynamic voices. Imagine a fully immersive touring spectacle, speaking to multiple senses all at once. Imagine the memories possible. Sounds magical doesn't it? That's DCappella.

The vision of co-creator, music director, arranger, and producer Deke Sharon ("*the father of contemporary a cappella*," according to *Entertainment Weekly*) whose credits span everything from the *Pitch Perfect* franchise to Straight No Chaser, the group represents a first for Disney, launching the brand's flagship a cappella experience with records, live shows, and many more surprises into 2019.

"We're spreading the magic of a cappella and Disney," affirms Sharon. "Every major musical tradition has a cappella at its core. When people are singing, their voices touch your heart immediately. Marrying this with Disney's timeless catalog is fantastic. It hasn't been translated to the live stage like this before—and it was something Disney had never done. Reinterpreting such indelible songs in a way that's exciting, fresh, and compelling required the right combination of talent and personality. From the singers to the production, we've gone with the best of the best to make audiences fall in love with these tunes over and over again."

An impromptu meeting over breakfast with executives from Disney Music Group planted the seeds for DCappella. As co-creator of the group, Sharon shared a call to audition on his social media and attracted over 1,500 submissions during 2017. Entrants performed both the Disney song of their choice and "Remember Me" from *Coco*. After in-person auditions in Los Angeles and New York, the final seven had been chosen.

"It was a combination of things," he says of his criteria. "The singers needed to be charismatic and talented, but they couldn't be divas either. Most importantly, they needed the right chemistry. Singing rapid intricate inner harmonies and jumping on different vocal lines that sound like instruments is a huge rollercoaster. We found talents who were firing on all cylinders. We have a real range of personalities, which enables us to do so many styles of music."

DCappella—Sojourner Brown [alto], Orlando Dixon [baritone/"The Voice"], Antonio Fernandez [vocal percussion], Morgan Keene [soprano/"Newsies"], Shelley Regner [mezzo/"Pitch Perfect" films], Joe Santoni [bass], and RJ Woessner [tenor]—made its formal debut on *American Idol* during "Disney Night," breathing new life into classics from *The Little Mermaid*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, and *Aladdin*. That same week, they graced one of Hollywood's most hallowed stages to open *Disney's Beauty and the Beast Live in Concert at the Hollywood Bowl*.

They recorded four songs on the digital version of the *Incredibles 2* original motion picture soundtrack, garnering millions of streams straight out of the gate.

As Sharon puts it, *"a cappella is always best in person,"* and that's why the first 40-city DCappella tour in 2019 truly brings the magic. "Every night will be unexpected," he goes on. "The goal was to do a cappella like people have never seen it. We run the gamut across Disney's catalog. Television shows, YouTube videos, and movies are great, but there's nothing like seeing a cappella right in front of you. You remember the incredible power of the human voice."

Continuing a string of consistent music, DCappella closes out 2018 with a pair of holiday singles—"All I Want For Christmas is You" and "Last Christmas."

"Every time DCappella sings a song, they'll put themselves in it and add a new spin," says Sharon. "It starts with the singers. Everything is created with love and reverence."

In the end, DCappella taps into something timeless with a new presentation.

"Over time, people started to forget how important vocal music is and how much joy it brings," he leaves off. "I want DCappella to bring that joy. Maybe somebody in the audience joins the church choir after seeing the show, or a teenager finds chorus in school and her life changes. Happiness goes up. I truly believe vocal music is what we need to knit society back together."