



A CAPPELLA

EST. *Academy* 2014

Founders & Camp Directors
Avi Kaplan, Ben Bram, and Rob Dietz



An Overview of Our Impact

*Bringing contemporary vocal education to
the next generation of young musicians*

Our legacy and how you can support us

Angela Huang, *Director of Operations*
acappellaacademy@gmail.com

A Cappella Academy was founded on a simple idea:

Group singing brings out the best in people.

Founders Ben Bram, Rob Dietz, and Avi Kaplan realized this when they met on the set of NBC's a cappella competition series *The Sing-Off* in 2011. The trio bonded over the unique ways in which a cappella had shaped their lives by fostering musical excellence while creating a vibrant and interconnected community. They dreamed of creating a program where young singers from around the world could gather each summer to push one another to new heights of musicianship and vocal prowess in a supportive environment.



After laying the groundwork for the program, the founders called upon some of the best vocalists, arrangers, coaches, and educators from the world of a cappella to join the staff. Our first session took place in Los Angeles the summer of 2014, and we've continued every year since then. The summer session remains at the heart of what we do, but we continue to find new ways to serve our ever-expanding musical community.

OUR MISSION

The mission of A Cappella Academy is to use contemporary a cappella music as a vehicle to train exemplary young musicians from all national, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds and instill the importance of community. We accomplish this through our programs, including our summer session for young singers, a training program for music educators, and a year-round choir based in Los Angeles. We also facilitate regular community events aimed at giving singers of all ages a chance to connect, hone their skills, and feel the joy of group singing.



from our first planning
meeting in 2012



to our most recent session
in 2023

The impact of A Cappella Academy can be felt across musical communities throughout the world.



SOCIAL IMPACT

- Our campers arrive on campus to meet like-minded, passionate friends from all different backgrounds.
- Together they embark on a whirlwind 10-day session, forming close bonds and having new experiences together, all while pursuing a common goal of musical excellence.
- Through our program, our campers gain confidence and are taught to embrace a musical culture of kindness and collaboration, not competition.

MUSICAL IMPACT

- Campers participate in specialized small groups and Academy choir, learning their music by ear or from sheet music, which allows us to admit talented vocalists from all musical backgrounds and traditions.
- We offer a diverse classroom curriculum, covering topics such as **musicianship, sight reading, rhythm, harmony, arranging, songwriting, recording, production, beatboxing, music leadership, solo performance, music business**, and more!
- Our campers emerge from our program with broadened musical horizons, a keener understanding of their own unique voice, and the confidence to lead and inspire others through music.



PROFESSIONAL IMPACT

- We have over 450 alumni, many of whom now have vibrant careers in music as **studio singers, background vocalists, recording artists, songwriters, audio engineers, producers, arrangers, composers, music directors, educators of all kinds, music therapists, music business professionals**, and more!
- The Academy family is tight knit, and it's common to see alumni and staff collaborating together on projects, hiring each other, and suggesting one another for exciting opportunities in the industry.

Our Alumni



Growing up in Omaha, Nebraska, under two Nigerian parents, music was never presented as a viable option for me, nor was there any opportunity to see it in action aside from teaching. It wasn't until A Cappella Academy came into my life that a serious career in music felt not only possible but inevitable. I went on to study Popular Music Performance at the University of Southern California, where I joined the SoCal VoCals and served as business manager and music director. My senior year, I was awarded Outstanding Graduate, becoming the first Black woman in the Popular Music program to achieve this honor. Upon graduating from USC, I've sung on feature film scores (*Encanto*, *The Color Purple*), shared the stage with world-renowned artists (*Olivia Rodrigo*, *Billie Eilish*), been nominated for a **GRAMMY Award**, and returned to A Cappella Academy as a group director to give back to the first community that took a chance on me.

Tehillah Alphonso



OTHER NOTABLE ALUMNI



Kaedi and Cora of **Citizen Queen**
pop/r&b recording artist



Isaiah Carter
arranger/composer/MD



Quinn of **Trousdale**
pop/country trio



Jon Viktor Corpuz
Broadway performer



Lucía Gutiérrez Reboloso
award-winning jazz vocalist



Olivia Barton
singer/songwriter



Jeffrey Eli
RCA recording artist



Red Letter Daze
vocal group

Testimonials



I'm currently studying film scoring. When I started at A Cappella Academy at age 14, I could barely read music. The program challenged me to explore my own musicianship while providing a safe environment for me to become the storyteller that I aspire to be.

Nyla Smith



At Academy I was exposed to so much musical content, career possibilities, love, kindness, and acceptance. It helped me understand that you can use your gifts in many different ways, to accomplish many different things. Even after a few years, I still think about Academy every single day, with everything I do.

Mani Garcia



The evolution I have witnessed in my own child, both musically and emotionally, is profound. This kind of musically challenging and fulfilling environment, coupled with finding a group of peers who love, challenge and accept him, has provided an irreplicable space for him to evolve – and will truly impact the trajectory of his life.

Amanda Hanzlik

PARENT AND MUSIC EDUCATOR



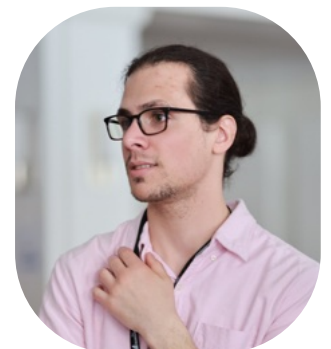
Academy helped shape my confidence, skills, and interest in pursuing a career in music therapy. The program emphasizes the importance of sharing your voice with the world which has inspired me to explore the ways we can use performing and songwriting to help those around us.

Claudia Gruber



Academy gives me hope for the future of our world and helps me believe that we can truly make an impact by sharing our voice. This program has created a family of the most accepting, inspiring, beautiful humans I've ever met from all across the globe, reminding me that we are all more connected than we realize, and that music is a way to break down barriers and create unity through expression.

Tucker Helms



To Academy and Beyond

Continuing our history of more than 10 years of high-level music education and flagship youth summer program, A Cappella Academy has expanded our programming in the Greater Los Angeles area and plans to expand our reach nationally and internationally with more pop-up events and festivals.



ONE-DAY CHOIR

Our One-Day Choir experience in Los Angeles is open to singers of all ages and backgrounds, offering a casual and judgment-free way for participants to get back in touch with their inner choir kid. Inspired by Gaia Music Collective's pop up choirs in NYC, our goal is to make this experience accessible to anyone who can learn a part by ear. We love seeing people's faces light up when they get to reconnect with group singing and meet other like-minded folks.

ACLA: Academy Choir Los Angeles

ACLA is A Cappella Academy's year-round youth choir open to vocalists ages 12-18 in the greater Los Angeles area. They rehearse weekly with two shows per year. This ensemble began in 2023 and we're very excited to see how the ensemble develops in the next few years!



BY THE NUMBERS

455 alumni from **10** sessions of A Cappella Academy

28 countries and **39** states represented

60,000,000 video views

800,000 followers on social media

15 alumni who have joined our staff

5 Grammy wins and **2** nominations between staff and alumni

How You Can Help

Our young vocalists come from all over the globe, with more than 60% of this year's class requiring financial assistance to attend. A core part of our mission is not only to provide a transformational musical experience but also to ensure equal access to our program regardless of a family's financial means.

2024 tuition is \$2800, and participants are also responsible for their travel costs. The singers fundraise within their own communities, but it's **only with your support** that we can get them over the line and make their A Cappella Academy dreams a reality.

Please DONATE TODAY to help empower the next generation of rising voices! All donations are tax-deductible as we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

TIERS OF GIVING

\$10,000 *Choir*

\$5,000 *Octet*

\$2,800 *Quartet*

\$1,400 *Trio*

\$700 *Duo*

\$350 *Solo*

Ways to Give



If you prefer to mail a check, you can make it out to **A Cappella Academy Inc** and mail it to:

A Cappella Academy
PMB 3101
201 E Center St, Suite 112
Anaheim, CA 92805



Give Now



acappellacademy.org



acappellaacademy@gmail.com

See Us In Action

