

A Cappella Concert packs Keating

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since their founding in 2007, IIT's student A cappella groups have been presenting concerts each semester to show off their hard work and talent to friends, fellow IIT students, and their families. The Spring 2015 A Cappella Concert took place Friday, April 17, 2015. Due to construction on the ceiling of Hermann Hall's auditorium, the concert was moved from its originally-scheduled location in the Hermann Hall Auditorium to the south court of Keating Sports Center.

"Mash-ups" was the theme of this semester's concert, with each of the groups performing mashup arrangements of popular tunes along with a few other songs. A Cappella President Peter Zurowski opened the event by thanking those in attendance, noting that the Spring concert was the most well-attended he has seen during his time with the organization.

The first group to perform was IIT A Cappella's Crown Joules, an all-male group

directed by Alexander Mitchell. The group performed their own rendition of four songs: Mark James' "Hooked on a Feeling," Freddie Mercury's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," and their own version of Pentatonix's Daft Punk mashup, featuring an impressive solo performance by Zurowski.

Next to perform were The X-Chromotones, A Cappella's all-female group directed by Amy Czarkowski, who performed five songs. "Why Do You Let Me Stay Here? 'Cuz You're a Sexy Bitch," a mashup of two songs by She & Him and David Guetta, was their first song, featuring solo performances by Veronica Castorena, Faiza, Lalani, and Christina Castillo. Kaylynn Barker was the group's soloist in The X-Chromotones' next song, "You Make My Dreams Come True," originally performed by Hall & Oats. The group then performed a remix of R. Kelly's "Ignition," originally arranged by The Ragtime Gals. "Blackbird," the classic Beatles song, was then performed with solos by Sarah Williams, Nicolette Lewis, and Jennifer Korleski. To

wrap up the Chromotones' set, David Bowie and Queen's "Under Pressure" was performed featuring solos from Czarkowski and Emma Ghariani.

The last group to perform was IIT A Cappella's coed group, The Techtonics, directed by Christian Perez. They performed four songs during the concert, starting with Matsiyahu's "One Day," featuring a solo by Carlos Bustamante. Another Beatles' hit, "Here Comes the Sun," was then performed with a solo performance by Charlie Sommers. The Techtonics' mashup song was called "Stay Next to Me," a combination of two hit songs by Sam Smith and Emile Sande, featuring two powerful performances by Dana Buetow and Anne Crotteau. The Techtonics turned up the energy to conclude their set with Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," featuring a solo performance by Khadija Nesbitt that got the crowd pumped.

At the conclusion of the concert, all three groups took the stage for a group song; the final song of the evening, "All About That

Super Bass," was a mashup of two immensely popular songs by Meghan Trainor and Nicki Minaj. The final performance of the night featured several soloists, including Karlene Gibbs, Buetow, Collin Dunn, and Castillo.

X-Chromotones Director Czarkowski reflects positively on the event. She thanks Al Mitchell, who worked on the audio in Keating to help the A Cappella groups be heard over intramural sports happening on the north court of upper level. She says the change of venue did provide some challenges to the group, but worked out all right in the end. "We were trying to decide between IIT Tower and Keating for the concert, and the main reason we chose Keating was because it could fit way more people. I'm glad we chose it too, since so many people showed up that we had to get out extra folding chairs. We've been getting more popular since A Cappella began at IIT," said Czarkowski.



Photos by Kori Bowns