

# Deke Sharon - Total Vocal - a cappella arranging, coaching, directing, producing

## Bio



Born in San Francisco, California, Deke Sharon has been performing professionally since the age of 8, and as a child toured North America and shared the stage in operas with the likes of Pavarotti. Heralded as "The Father of Contemporary A Cappella," he is responsible for the current sound of modern a cappella, having created the dense vocal-instrumental sound in college, subsequently spreading it around the world.

Deke produces "The Sing-Off" worldwide (USA, 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" 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 Compilation), 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.

He is also contemporary 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 3 books: "Acappella Arranging" (2012), "A Cappella" (2015) and "The Heart of Vocal Harmony" (2016). 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. His voice can be heard in commercials and video games, including "Just Dance Kids 2." 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. You can see him on television on Lifetime's "Pitch Slapped" (aka "Pitch Battle" in the Philippines, and "A Cappella Battle" in Israel).

### **Mickey Rapkin, "Pitch Perfect" (book)**

If there's an acronym in a cappella, Deke Sharon probably had something to do with it

### **Buchs, Switzerland**

Dabei stellte Deke sein komödiantisches Talent unter Beweis als er Mick Jagger imitierte. Brilliant die Interpretations von Gershwin's {Summertime}, bei dem Deke die Posaune imitierte. - {Deke proved his comic talent with a Mick Jagger interpretation, and his performance of Gershwin's Summertime, complete with vocal trumpet, was brilliant}

### **Singapore A Cappella Society**

Deke telah memainkan peranan yang penting dalam pembangunan bidang a cappella di Singapura, yang merangkumi latihan, penyusunan lagu, penasihat dan perundingan. - {Deke has been instrumental in the development of Singapore's budding a cappella scene, from training to arrangements to advise and consultation}

### **Wuming Chen, Vocal Asia Exec. Officer**

(Translated) - With his limitless energy, sensitive intuition, plentiful experience, and strong passion for a cappella music, Deke Sharon has brought a beautiful musical vision and influenced countless a cappella musicians in Asia. From musical training and overarching presentation all the way to the fulfillment of musicians' dreams, Deke is the only master I know who understands a cappella music from the smallest technical detail to the broadest vision of the industry

### **NZTV (New Zealand)**

The guy that made choir cool again!