



## **4 THE RECORD**

**A Great Lakes Vocal Band**

### **A GROUP BIOGRAPHY - "HOW WE GOT OUR START?"**

4 THE RECORD began as a simple concept, "to form a professional (a cappella) vocal band that values friendship and positive energy in practice and on stage first and foremost. The group hopes to take advantage of its combined talent, energy, and charisma to create an overall entertainment experience for audiences in the Midwest and across the country." With each new practice, concert, and experience, the group of six strives to be one of the premiere vocal bands in the State of Ohio, the Midwest, and beyond.

4 THE RECORD grew primarily out of a central Ohio vocal talent base through The Ohio State University. In 2005, while on staff at The Ohio State University at Marion, 4 THE RECORD's Wayne Rowe lent his voice and experience as advisor and business manager to establish the campus's first all men's contemporary collegiate a cappella group InChant. 4 THE RECORD vocalist Kiersten Bowmer joined the fledgling college group as one of its first female members in 2006, followed by 4 THE RECORD vocalist Brittany Roszman in 2007. After years of performing together and nearly 90 concerts, Rowe, Bowmer, and Roszman decided to take their combined a cappella knowledge, love for vocal music, and talents to the professional level.

Inspired by a number of touring a cappella groups they met during annual trips to the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America's East Coast A Cappella Summit, SingStrong A Cappella Festival, and the Mid Atlantic Harmony Sweepstakes, the 3 unlikely friends began forming ideas to build a group. They also learned a great deal through a personal friendship and advice garnered from internationally renowned a cappella group Vocaldente, from Hannover, Germany.

They spent months collaborating on music and a group name. After an exhaustive search and long list of rejected names 4 THE RECORD rang true with group members. Although there are more than 4 members in the group today, the group loves the sound and double entendre meaning of their name. Everything they do is from the record and for the record. The idea of utilizing a record in the name and logo to represent the group ties it to the simpler days of vinyl when music was truly music.

After choosing a name, the three began an extensive search for more male voices and a vocal percussionist. The youngest member of the group, Mark Meginness joined in March 2009 after transferring from a music program at Indiana Wesleyan University to Marion Technical College in his hometown. The three were familiar with his voice, background in jazz and percussion, so bringing him on board was a no brainer. "We knew he would fit in perfectly."

**"No instruments, no gimmicks, just the human voice."**

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The search for a vocal percussionist was accomplished through open invitation online, i.e., facebook, and after receiving an online audition from Chris Ott the choice was clear.

The jazz studies major and member of The Ohio State University Marching Band brings natural talent and years of music theory training to his vocal percussion. Last but certainly not least is John Garnes. Garnes and Rowe met while playing characters, Schroeder and Linus in "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown." A gifted vocalist and wonderful solo tenor voice, Garnes joined the group in July 2009, thus completing the group.

Despite the fact 4 THE RECORD began officially forming in Spring 2009 and had its first full practice in June 2009, the formation of this new up and coming vocal band has been 4 years in the making, with thousands of hours, miles of travel, applause, and lessons learned preceding the formation of this group.

The first public performance the group booked was in 2009 as part of an annual fundraiser for the Janice Holland Streit Scholarship Fund at Brennan Loft, London, Ohio. The first concert the group booked was Sunday with the Arts at the historic 1,400 seat Marion Palace Theatre, Marion, Ohio.

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