ARTISTS
The House Jacks
John Pointer
Nick Girard
Troy Horne
Austin Willacy
Deke Sharon

PROGRAM
Today’s program will be announced from the stage.

Joey Chang, a.k.a. “CelloJoe,” will perform a 30-minute set at 3:00 pm in the Gunn Atrium.

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms, and unwrap all lozenges prior to the performance. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.
THE HOUSE JACKS
The House Jacks of San Francisco are the original “rock band without instruments.” Using nothing more than their five voices (and mouths), band members deliver everything from blistering funk to screaming rock to heart-melting ballads for their ever-growing legions of fans. These pioneering musicians have performed thousands of shows and shared the stage with some of the biggest names in music. Their radio spots for Rick Dees Weekly Top 40 have been heard by 50 million listeners on 330 U.S. radio stations and 50 other stations around the world. Their jingles for radio stations in Los Angeles and San Francisco have been heard by more than 1.5 million listeners. Their music can also be heard in places as far-reaching as movie soundtracks and computer operating systems.

A house jack is what you use when you want to move a house. Anyone who has seen the group perform live will tell you that the name is appropriate. “Raise the roof” takes on a whole new meaning with the House Jacks.

The House Jacks have performed thousands of shows at stadiums (from Fenway to Candlestick), theaters and clubs (from Carnegie Hall to the House of Blues), colleges (from Dartmouth to Stanford), and festivals (from the World Expo to the Black and White Ball) in locations around the United States and internationally, including France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Japan, and Singapore. The group has appeared with Ray Charles; James Brown; Train; LL Cool J; the Neville Brothers; Bill Clinton; Crosby, Stills, and Nash; the Pointer Sisters; Live; Nia Peeples; Johnny Clegg; Blind Boys of Alabama; Colin Powell; the Temptations; George Carlin; Pam Tillis, the Four Tops; the Gap Band; Tower of Power; Starship; Jon Secada; Run-DMC; and many others.

JOHN POINTER
John Pointer, a.k.a. “Squinty Phil,” grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan; got a degree in cello performance and composition from the University of Texas at Austin; and has been a full-time musician based there ever since. He created and led the pioneering a cappella and body percussion ensemble Schrödinger’s Cat and was the beatboxer in the Chili’s commercials for baby back ribs. He’s a pretty ridiculous guitarist (seriously...watch a video); he played Judas in Jesus Christ Superstar and Roger in Rent; he has commercially released nine albums with several different groups; and the mayor and city council of Austin declared January 27, 2005, John Pointer Day.

NICK GIRARD
Born and raised in the great state of Maine, Nick Girard became interested in music in fourth grade when he started playing the clarinet. Upon realizing that girls aren’t overly fond of glasses-wearing, math-loving clarinetists, Mr. Girard switched to drums in middle school, much to the delight of his family and neighbors. Guitar was even better at attracting female attention, so he grew out his hair, bought a Stratocaster, and began writing love songs.

Mr. Girard’s first encounter with a cappella was as a college freshman at the University of Vermont. Enchanted by the Top Cats’ marketing slogan “Chicks Dig Guys Who Sing,” Mr. Girard joined the group as a tenor and later became the group’s vocal percussionist.

After graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in applied mathematics and computer science, Mr. Girard worked as a telecommunications analyst before ditching the nine to five to become a carpenter. In 2006, he started the group Overboard as a side project. Five years, five albums, and seven Contemporary A Cappella Recording Award nominations later, Overboard expanded into a cappella production work and Overboard Productions was born. Mr. Girard’s work for Overboard Productions has since been featured on 20/20, Today, TBS, and NBC’s The Sing-Off.

TROY HORNE
Troy Horne has starred in the Broadway show Rent and has been featured on NBC’s The Sing-Off and ION Television’s Firebrand TV. Mr. Horne has toured the world with the House Jacks, singing for audiences in the United States and Europe.

Mr. Horne has also written music for the television documentary Tupac Shakur: Thug Angel—The Life of an Outlaw; appeared on Star Search; written music for former NFL champion and Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy’s book Uncommon: Finding Your Path to Significance; and most recently completed his new CD I Am, a work of life-affirming music that received a Posi Award for its message of social action.
In addition to singing with the House Jacks, Mr. Horne is currently working with Nightingale Conant as a musician and motivational speaker and looks forward to serving the planet with his music and message. You can find out more about Troy and his work at www.troyhorne.com.

AUSTIN WILLACY
Austin Willacy is a singer-songwriter who has produced four full-length albums of his original music. He has toured extensively throughout the United States as a solo artist and throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan with the House Jacks. Mr. Willacy cowrote the theme song for the movie Thrive. In addition, his songs and compositions have been featured on The Sing-Off; on national TV in Australia; on Road Rules; on National Public Radio; in two documentary films, Word Wars and A Lawyer Walks into a Bar; and on the demo for a new Sony audio system for Ford vehicles. He has also contributed dozens of soundlike vocals to the Karaoke Revolution and Guitar Hero video game franchises.

Mr. Willacy is the director of ’Til Dawn—Youth in Arts’ award-winning teen a cappella group—and has facilitated more than 35 youth retreats. Mr. Willacy has also cofacilitated four Leveraging Privilege for Social Change Jams and currently serves on the Yes! board of directors. He also served on the board of Rainforest Action Network for four years and is in his fifth year of service on the board of the Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse. He donates his time and musical talent to a wide range of educational, social, and environmental organizations.

DEKE SHARON
Born in San Francisco, California, Deke Sharon has been performing professionally since the age of eight. As a child, he toured North America and shared the stage in operas with the likes of Luciano Pavarotti. Heralded as “the father of contemporary a cappella” by Entertainment Weekly, he is responsible for the current sound of modern a cappella, having created the dense vocal-instrumental sound in college and subsequently spreading it around the world.

In addition to his work with the House Jacks, Mr. Sharon produces NBC’s The Sing-Off, which had the highest ratings of any new, unscripted television show in the United States in 2009 and was the third-highest-rated show on NBC in 2010. He also consults on the show’s international versions in Holland and China. In addition, Mr. Sharon served as music director for Universal Studio’s 2012 film Pitch Perfect starring Anna Kendrick.

Mr. Sharon founded the Contemporary A Cappella Society while in college and is responsible for many seminal a cappella programs, including the Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards; the International Championship of College A Cappella; the Best of College A Cappella Compilation; the first contemporary a cappella conferences, the A Cappella Summit; the new Contemporary A Cappella League; and the YouTube channel Inside A Cappella.

He is also contemporary a cappella’s most prolific arranger, having arranged more than 2,000 songs, with many of them in print worldwide with Hal Leonard/Contemporary A Cappella Publishing. His first book, A Cappella Arranging, was published in 2012.

He has produced dozens of award-winning a cappella albums for groups such as Straight No Chaser, Committed, Nota, Street Corner Symphony, and the Tufts Beelzebubs; created a cappella groups for Disneyland and Disney World; 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, most recently in Just Dance Kids 2.