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TIM BOBOSKY | PHOTOGRAPHER

Six in the City from University of California, Berkeley sings September/Dance to the Music and took second place at the International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella quarterfinals held at South Eugene High School on Saturday night.

## Divisi: Singers to compete in Stanford finals

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"We were kind of surprised because four-sixths of the competitors were from the same area," Davis said, suggesting that Yreka, Calif., would have been a more geographically equitable location for the event.

The event's venue, South Eugene High School, is the alma mater of Divisi music director Lisa Forkish. South Eugene High School's jazz choir performed while the ICCA judges deliberated.

"We were trying to find a venue that was bigger than Beall," Forkish said. "South held the most people, and I was familiar with it."

On The Rocks, Divisi's male counterpart at the University, emceed the event and provided musical entertainment between groups.

On The Rocks has competed in events similar to the ICCA competition, but the group is taking this year off from competing to work on a compact disc that will be released either at the end of this school year or early next year.

"It's tough because when you do a competition, you spend two months focusing on three songs," On The Rocks member Jeremy Davidson said.

Divisi went into the competition hopeful and confident, member Suzie Day said.

"You never know what will happen because the three judges — it's just three people's opinions," Divisi member Joanne Caputo said.

Groups at the competition were judged on blend, arrangements, rhythmic accuracy, interpretation, intonation, solos, dynamics, visual effects and stage presence.

"We're constantly critiquing ourselves, so I do think we come with a full package," Forkish said. She added that Divisi's choreography has become stronger over the past year.

Divisi member Erica Barkett, who is also the captain of the University's dance team, is in charge of the group's choreography.

"Teaching singers to dance is different from teaching dancers to dance," she said, explaining that the dance movements accompanying songs are smaller and more confined than most but are still an important part of the Divisi package.

"It makes it visually appealing, so there's something to go along with the singing," Barkett said. "It gives the singers energy."

Divisi won awards for outstanding

choreography, outstanding arrangement for Sarah Klein's adaptation of the Joni Mitchell song "Woodstock" and outstanding solo by Evyne Smith for the same song.

Divisi also performed original arrangements of "Walking on Broken Glass" by Annie Lennox and "Yeah!" by Usher.

Many of the groups at the competition worked with material outside the spectrum of traditional a cappella music. "Yeah!," a rap song Smith arranged for Divisi, was innovative for the group.

"It's a fun song," Divisi member Megan McCormack said. "It's different from anything else we sing."

Outspoken opened the show with a cover of "Don't Whiz on the Electric Fence" from "The Ren and Stimpy Show."

"It's a really tight song for us," Outspoken member Jacob LaCombe said. "We decided to go with it, have a little fun. We knew it wasn't going to be copied."

Divisi will be commuting by van to the semifinals at Stanford this coming Friday. On all other Fridays they perform free concerts in the EMU Amphitheater at 4 p.m.

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