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'The Sing-Off' Season Two Finalists The Backbeats Release Debut Album Nov. 15
Self-Titled CD Features a Diverse Mix of Selected Covers

Oct. 18, 2011 - "The Sing-Off" season two finalists, The Backbeats, will release their self-titled CD November 15 on Arrival and Madison Gate Records. The record, "The Backbeats From The Sing-Off," will feature a mix of hand-selected cover hits, including the group's rendition of Beyoncé's "If I Were A Boy," which helped seal their top three position on season two of the show. The disc also includes a track featuring the Grammy-nominated and season three judge from "The Sing-Off," Sara Bareilles, who guests on the group's version of Sara's hit "Uncharted."

Drawn together in Los Angeles by their televised adventure in 2010, the group is comprised of baritone Kenton Chen, soprano Kelley Jakle, tenor Eitan Nir and alto Rachel Saltzman from USC; bass Todd G. Levin, a USC alumnus; soprano Joanna Jones from UCLA; alto/vocal percussionist Courtney Jensen from Brigham Young University; and Jordan Pharoah, an alumnus of the Los Angeles County High School of the Performing Arts.

The bonds of trust developed rapidly as they began rehearsing for "The Sing-Off." "We didn't know what our group's sound would be like when we came into it," Saltzman says. "Like I said, our first performance ever was on the show, so we went on this little retreat before the taping. For a week we lived in a house together and just sang and ate and got to know each other more. You could tell even then there was something special here. We had no idea how people would react to us; we didn't even think it would last past this summer. But it has and we wanted to keep it going."

That's what brought them into the studio. Ben Bram and Kenton Chen, who arranged and produced the album together, kept the magic alive by combining careful execution with spontaneity. "In the recording studio, options are limitless," Bram explains. "On 'The Sing-Off,' The Backbeats only had their ten voices. In the studio, we could track as many times as we wanted. So we arranged everything carefully while also using the strengths of the studio, to maintain the soul and passion of the individual voices and the group sound as a whole. This gave us a chance to explore new songs and dig deeper into a variety of styles."

The group is scheduled to tour in support of their debut album. Nearly nine million

(more)

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viewers tuned in to witness The Backbeats' performances on "The Sing-Off" and now fans throughout the U.S. will get another chance to experience the group's commanding lead vocals, luscious harmonies and electrifying vocal percussion that made them popular amongst their fans. The group won over audiences in the first episode of season two, leading to an astounding number of viewer votes and placing the group's songs among the most downloaded throughout the series. Also, look for The Backbeats to perform on a special episode of "The Sing-Off" later this season.

Track listing:

1. THINKING 'BOUT SOMETHIN'
2. BORN THIS WAY
3. EVERY TEARDROP IS A WATERFALL
4. TURNING TABLES
5. 'TILL THE WORLD ENDS
6. FIREWORK
7. CRY ME A RIVER
8. NEED YOU NOW
9. WHO YOU ARE
10. IF I WERE A BOY
11. MONSTER
12. UNCHARTED (feat. Sara Bareilles)

"The Sing-Off" scours the country in search of the best a cappella groups. This year, the competition has expanded not only weekly but also to the 16 very best vocal groups who will perform chart-topping songs in weekly competition that will culminate with a live finale revealing the grand prize winner. The groups will be competing for America's vote and a chance to walk away with the ultimate prize – a Sony Music recording contract and a cash prize of \$200,000.

"The Sing-Off" is produced by Joel Gallen's ("America's Best Dance Crew") Tenth Planet Productions, Outlaw Entertainment and Sony Pictures Television. Gallen, Deb Newmyer ("The Ugly Truth"), Sam Weisman ("George of the Jungle"), and Josh Greenberg ("America's Best Dance Crew") are executive producers.

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