

## **The Exchange - Individual Bios**

### **ALFREDO AUSTIN: The Soul**

Alfredo Adolfo Austin III, “Fredo,” is a soulful, gritty vocal powerhouse. Onstage, he holds nothing back; restraint is not in his vocabulary. Whether Motown, hip-hop, rock, or a ballad, Fredo takes you on a ride. His smoky, sensual mid-range supports his passionate wailing high notes; he can move and groove on stage with the best. Raised in Delaware by his Panamanian father and American mother, Fredo’s musical athleticism had its roots playing linebacker on the football field. He owes his distinctive sound to an elbow to the throat that left him with only one healthy vocal chord. Alfredo is not just cool; he’s also a geeky teddy bear, with an unforgettable smile. A closet left-brained genius, Fredo earned a degree in Music Business from the University of Delaware. His math mind and tech skills make him a stand-out recording engineer and music arranger. He is known for recording in his hotel room studio from midnight to dawn, roommate or not.

### **CHRISTOPHER DIAZ: The Heart**

Chris is a giant. Giant height, giant range, giant heart. At 6 foot 4, (6-6 when his mohawk is at its prime), Chris towers over many, yet is never intimidating. His warm and relaxed way puts others at ease. Even addressing a crowd of thousands, he seems like he is chatting with each person one-on-one. Chris is known for his resonant low notes, but he catches audiences by surprise with his soaring high notes. As The Exchange’s resident hipster, it’s hard to find Chris wearing something other than skinny jeans, flowing tops, and beanies. Raised in Virginia, Chris embodies the American melting pot: half black, half white, with a Latin-influenced upbringing. Chris learned at a young age to overcome life’s obstacles by turning to music as a guiding light; this ultimately led to conservatory operatic training and a degree in Voice Performance from Florida State University. His love for a cappella music and uncanny ability to connect with just about *anyone* led him to become an internationally sought after vocal coach, and eventually, a vocal producer on NBC’s The Sing-Off. Beyond music, Chris is a connoisseur of world culture. He picks up languages wherever music takes him, reads global news daily, and cooks fine world cuisine, to the delight of his kitchen-clumsy band mates.

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### **JAMAL MOORE: The Charm**

What do you get when you blend Nat King Cole and Andre 3000? Jamal Moore. Born in Augusta, GA, Jamal was raised on gospel music in the church. Recruited by The Eastman School of Music for his rich baritone voice, he traded in his hip-hop/R&B aspirations for opera, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Voice Performance. At Eastman, Jamal won the coveted William Warfield Award an unprecedented three years in a row. He also met Aaron, the two became best friends, and led their a cappella group to national attention on NBC's The Sing-Off. Now, in The Exchange, Jamal no longer has to choose one musical passion over another. He fuses them all with class and finesse. No matter the style, his iconic warm, smooth deep voice captures hearts in every corner of the globe. Jamal is a true Southern gentleman. With impeccable manners and sense of style, he charms attractive young ladies, and enlists parents to see him as their ideal son-in-law. Despite all these gifts, Jamal remains humble, genuine, and strong in his faith.

### **AARON SPERBER: The Spark**

Aaron is known for his high, pure voice and his fun-loving "can-do" attitude. As the founder of The Exchange, Aaron's entrepreneurial spirit and knack for brokering unlikely partnerships have taken the group to dozens of countries across five continents. He has played cello since age three and piano since age ten. At twelve, his cello playing earned him the Yo-Yo Ma Music Ambassador Award, for which he had written an essay laying out his career aspirations of becoming an International Music Ambassador! He holds degrees in Voice Performance from The Eastman School and in International Relations from URochester. Aaron is the producer of a documentary film called United We Sing, about a musical humanitarian mission he led in rural Kenya. The film's message is that music can connect the world and inspire young people to find meaning and direction in their lives. At home, as an answer to cuts in school music programs, Aaron started an inner city a cappella program based on the principles of United We Sing. Aaron's unapologetic optimism is infectious; he integrates dreams with the pragmatism and work ethic to make sure they happen.

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### **RICHARD STEIGHNER: The Mystique**

Richard is a modern, mysterious Renaissance Man. As the group's primary beatboxer, Richard is known to many as "Robot," named for his superhuman ability to create cyber-like sound effects, using only his mouth. Ironically, this mouth magician doesn't speak much, but Robot doesn't need words to captivate a crowd. Before the song starts, Richard has already drawn in his audience with his timeless good looks and his quiet intensity. But the downbeat flips Robot's switch to on and unleashes his raw, off-the-wall, explosive energy. Not to be limited to "the drums," Richard impresses with his earthy, honest rockabilly solo voice. The story behind Robot's intrigue began in the mountains of Colorado, where his creative bent found many outlets. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture and Psychology from the University of Colorado, taught himself rock guitar, started his own furniture company, and became a master web designer. How Richard manages to morph all this creativity into one human being will likely remain an unsolvable mystery.