



## ENTERTAINMENT BIOS:

### SUPREMELY “ABLE” SINGERS RION PAIGE AND KECHI OKWUCHI HEADLINE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BOATING & BEACH BASH FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

*The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Boating & Beach Bash for People with Disabilities – the nation’s largest, free, one-day event for people with disabilities, both seen and unseen – will welcome new national entertainment to its stage for an anticipated audience of more than 5,000 guests. Presented by the American Disabilities Foundation, the event has become an inclusive Spring Break event, drawing families from across the country.*

#### RION PAIGE

New for 2019, **Rion Paige**, an 18-year-old finalist on the X Factor, will perform as one of the Bash’s two headliners. A Jacksonville, Fla. native, Paige was born with shortened arms, hands that face backwards and a huge singing voice. A country-and-western musician, she finished in fifth place on season 3 of the X Factor USA, as part of the Girls’ category and was mentored by Demi Lovato.

Rion has a rare condition called arthrogryposis multiplex congenita, which causes permanent damage to her arms, resulting in her hand being in a fixed, bent position. She loves country music and cites Carrie Underwood and Taylor Swift as a couple of her musical influences. Rion auditioned for the X Factor in Charleston, South Carolina, impressing the judges with her cheerful and spunky attitude. Then, she wowed them with her rendition of the Carrie Underwood hit, “Blown Away.” With four approvals, she made the top 40.

Since her 2013 appearance on the national show, Rion has become a student at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, and she released a self-titled album in 2015. She’s writing another one and traveling the country on weekends, performing at venues and events, like the Bash. Rion is also studying worship arts.

“Singing is the gateway,” she said in the Jacksonville Times-Union/Jacksonville.com. “But it’s been even more about the mission ... sharing my story and being able to relate to others.”

Her links:

<https://www.facebook.com/rion.paige>

<http://www.hallmarkchannel.com/home-and-family/videos/rion-paige>

#### KECHI OKWUCHI

Returning for 2019 will be singer **Kechi Okwuchi**, a Nigerian-American singer and motivational speaker. She was one of only two survivors in the Sosoliso Airlines Flight 1145 crash on Dec. 10, 2005, and suffered severe third-degree burns over 65 percent of her body. A finalist on the 12<sup>th</sup> season of America’s Got Talent in 2017, Kechi headlined the Boating & Beach Bash in 2018 and was a tremendous crowd-pleaser.

Kechi, who traveled to Boca from her home in Houston, performed many of the songs that propelled her into televisions across the country. A fighter, she has endured more than 100 surgeries following the accident. She spent much of the afternoon at last year's Bash greeting attendees, hugging them, posing for photos and signing autographs. She said it was one of the most memorable days of her life.

Currently a graduate student, earning her MBA in Economics from University of St. Thomas, Kechi, 27, travels to perform at events across the country, such as the Bash; studies; and pursues nonprofit work with different organizations that have learned about her, thanks to her performance on America's Got Talent. She also serves as a national spokesperson for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

"I still can't believe I became a top 10 finalist on the show," she writes on her website. "America's Got Talent opened new paths for me, and now I intend to forge forward in faith with music as my goal."

Her links:

<https://www.kechiofficial.com/welcome/>

<https://www.facebook.com/OfficialKechi/>

IF YOU GO:

11<sup>th</sup> Annual Boating & Beach Bash for People with Disabilities

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sunday, March 10, 2019

Spanish River Park, 3001 North Ocean Blvd. (A1A), Boca Raton, FL 33431

Admission and all Bash activities are complimentary.

BoatingBeachBash.com; 561-715-2622