

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Las Virgenes Unified School District

4111 Las Virgenes Road

Calabasas, CA 91302

Media Contact: Dr. Dan Stepenosky, Superintendent

Phone: 818-878-5219

Email: dstepenosky@lvusd.org

www.LVUSD.org

March 14, 2019

DREAM BIG AND HOLD ON: Wilson Phillips in Concert with LVUSD Students

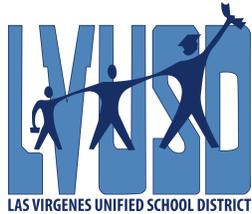
LVUSD & The Beacon for the Arts Fund proudly present *DREAM BIG AND HOLD ON: Wilson Phillips in Concert with the Talented Students of LVUSD to benefit the LVUSD Performing Arts*. All proceeds from this fantastic concert will **BENEFIT THE PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS IN THE LAS VIRGENES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**.

Calabasas, CA – The Las Virgenes Unified School District is happy to announce that its sixth annual performance to benefit its Performing Arts programs will be held on Friday, May 17, 2019, at the luxurious 650-seat, state-of-the-art Performing Arts Education Center on the campus of Calabasas High School.

This amazing concert will feature the iconic American vocal group, Wilson Phillips live in concert performing some of their biggest, chart-topping hits like “Hold On”, “Release Me”, and “You’re In Love”. Building on the idea of realizing your dreams, the Wilson Phillips opening acts will include Calabasas High School’s very own a cappella sensation, *Unstrumental*, fresh from their performance at New York City’s Carnegie Hall, the CHS a cappella group *Bare Rhythm*, the *CHS String Ensemble*, and the award-winning *CHS Dance Team*, as well as a highly talented selection of the District’s elementary, middle, and high school students.

Patrons will be invited to mingle in the lobby with their fellow supporters of the arts and enjoy some tasty treats, as well as have the opportunity win some great prizes. LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Donors will be invited to an exclusive reception following the concert where they can mingle with all the performers, including Wilson Phillips. All proceeds will benefit the students in our District’s Performing Arts Programs and the Performing Arts Education Centers.

“I am ecstatic at the opportunity to see Wilson Phillips in concert with our students. Ever since they appeared in the movie *Bridesmaids*, I’ve been a huge fan!” said Superintendent Dr. Stepenosky, “We are continuously grateful that the community passed the bond that allowed us to build these state of the art Performing Arts Centers on our High School Campuses, and to continuously support our dreams for both theaters as a ‘beacon for the arts’ in our community. LVUSD’s annual benefit is a celebration of our many talented students, faculty, community members, and of course our wonderful Performing Arts Education Centers!”



All proceeds from the Benefit will go to support the performing arts programs in the Las Virgenes Unified School District and the Performing Arts Education Centers, which were established in 2012 to house the outstanding performing arts programs throughout the District. The PAEC's were created to inspire, teach and motivate students, many of whom have gone on to professional careers in the performing arts. The purpose of the funds raised is two-fold: to ensure that the robust performing arts programs in Las Virgenes continue to thrive; and to provide for ongoing operation and maintenance of the theaters, assuring that these tremendous assets will benefit the students and community for generations to come.

Tickets for this wonderful event are available online at www.thePAECs.org and also during regular Performing Arts Education Center Box Office hours, Monday thru Friday from 2 to 4pm, at our Agoura Hills location.



Calendar Listing for:

Dream Big and Hold On

WILSON PHILLIPS

in concert with the talented students of LVUSD
to Benefit the LVUSD Performing Arts

Venue: Performing Arts Education Center
C-PAEC (on the campus of Calabasas High School)
22855 Mulholland Highway; Calabasas, CA 91302

The C-PAEC on Google Maps:

<https://plus.google.com/111824922548378607730/about?gl=us&hl=en>

Performance Schedule: Friday, May 17, 2019, at 8:00PM

Tickets:

Tickets are available during regular PAEC Box Office hours in Agoura Hills, Monday-Friday, 2:00 to 4:00pm,
and at all public PAEC performances in both Agoura Hills and Calabasas.

Online: Tickets are available at: www.thePAECs.org, and www.FaceBook.com/thePAECs

For more information and a link to purchase tickets for all *Performing Arts Education Center* events online, visit: www.thePAECs.org

Phone: PAEC Box Office, 818-591-1209, ext. 1

Mailing Address: The Performing Arts Education Centers
4111 Las Virgenes Road
Calabasas, CA 91302

Theatre Manager Phone: 818-591-1209 x 2

Email: theatermanager@lvusd.org

Website: www.thePAECs.org

FaceBook: www.FaceBook.com/thePAECs

FaceBook Event Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/592703767727910/>

Twitter: [@thePAECs](https://twitter.com/thePAECs)

Instagram: [@the_paecs](https://www.instagram.com/the_paecs)

Dream Big and Hold On

WILSON PHILLIPS

**In Concert with the Talented Students of LVUSD
to Benefit the LVUSD Performing Arts**



**On the Campus of Calabasas High School
Friday, May 17, 2019 at 8PM**

**Tickets Available at
www.thePAECs.org**



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February 20, 2019

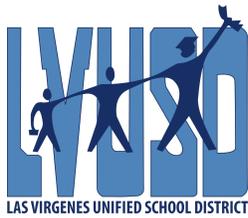
The Las Virgenes Unified School District proudly presents: Dream Big and Hold On

The Las Virgenes Unified School District will present its Sixth Annual Benefit Performance in celebration of the generosity of its donors, and in support of the creativity and spirit of the amazing students involved in the Performing Arts throughout the District. The Benefit Performance will take place at the C-PAEC, the Performing Arts Education Center on the campus of Calabasas High School.

This Sixth Annual Benefit shimmers a spotlight on the superb performing arts and educational experiences this school district offers to not only the students but the community as a whole. Alongside acknowledging the generosity of our donors and the local communities, the evening will help generate the imperative monies to reach our goal of raising and investing 5 million dollars in the LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund. In addition to acknowledging the commitment of our donors and the community to these inspirational facilities, this special evening will generate necessary funds to support the vision for these theaters as thriving performing arts hubs that reach, teach, challenge, and inspire not only the students of Las Virgenes but community members at large.

Dream Big and Hold On: WILSON PHILLIPS in Concert with the Talented Students of LVUSD brings together the dreams, passion, optimism, and talent of all our students at LVUSD, which features award-winning groups like *Unstrumental*, *Bare Rhythm*, and the *CHS Dance Team* to share the stage with the astounding Wilson Phillips, where you'll hear iconic global hit songs like *Hold On* and *Release Me* performed live and up close in the PAEC MainStage where every seat is a great seat.

This event will take place Friday, May 17, 2019 at 8:00pm at the Performing Arts Education Center on the campus of Calabasas High School (C-PAEC). Tickets for this inspiring event are available online at www.thePAECs.org.



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Wilson Phillips

Wilson Phillips is an American pop/rock vocal group consisting of Carnie Wilson, Wendy Wilson and Chynna Phillips formed in 1989.

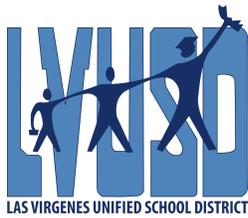
Carnie Wilson and Wendy Wilson are the daughters of Beach Boys' Brian Wilson, whilst Chynna Phillips is the daughter of Mama & Papas' John and Michelle Phillips. The girls were childhood friends after growing up together in Southern California in the 1970s and 1980s. They formed Wilson Phillips in 1989 and their debut self-titled album came the year after.

It peaked at #2 on the US Billboard Charts and #7 in the UK charts. The album included two momentous worldwide hit singles, the first being 'Hold On' which debuted at #1 on the US chart and #6 in the UK, as well as charting highly in a number of other countries. 'Release Me' followed and topped the US and Canadian charts. Thanks to the success of these singles, the band's debut album is now certified five times multi-platinum.

The album and singles accumulated the women five Grammy Award nominations in categories including Song Of The Year, Album Of The Year and Best New Artist.

They released their second album 'Shadows & Light' in 1992 and peaking at #4 on the US charts and now holds a platinum-selling certificate. They returned with an album of cover versions entitled 'California' which debuted at #35 on the US charts with first-week sales of more than 30,000 units. Since then they have released a holiday album entitled 'Christmas in Harmony' and 'Dedicated', an album made up of The Beach Boys and Mamas & Papas covers.

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



Unstrumental

Unstrumental is Calabasas High School's award-winning contemporary a cappella ensemble. Founded in 2001, they have been entertaining audiences ever since. The group's many accomplishments include being two-time champions of the Los Angeles A Cappella Festival Scholastic Competition (winning first place in 2014 and 2018, Best Soloist every year they have competed, and numerous awards for Best Staging and Audience Favorite) and performing at Carnegie Hall in 2015 as part of Deke Sharon's "Total Vocal" concert in conjunction with the release of Pitch Perfect 2.

Other credits include participating in the 2017 Kettering AcaFest as featured performers in the Friday night showcase and traveling to China in 2015 for a 19 day, 5 city performance tour.

Unstrumental has recorded two full-length albums and released their EP, "Unst" on Spotify and iTunes in 2017. Their cover of the song, "Never Be Like You" originally by Flume, was the fifth song by *Unstrumental* to be featured on Varsity Vocals Best of High School A Cappella album. In August 2018, *Unstrumental* released their first music video for their cover of Beyonce's "Crazy in Love."

In March, the group will be traveling to New York with the rest of the CHS choir program to participate in Deke Sharon's "Total Vocal" concert at Carnegie Hall. In April, *Unstrumental* plans to attend the National A Cappella Convention in Memphis.

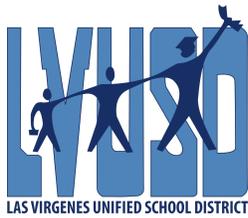
<https://www.chsacappella.com/>

Bare Rhythm

Bare Rhythm was created in 2004 and is Calabasas High School's premiere all female a cappella ensemble. In 2015, *Bare Rhythm* was a featured group at Deke Sharon's "Total Vocal" concert at Carnegie Hall in New York. Later that year, they traveled to China for a 19-day, 5-city performance tour. *Bare Rhythm's* other credits include a Cover Girl video with Bea Miller, appearing live on the KTLA morning news, a featured performance at the Kettering AcaFest in Ohio, competing at the LA A Cappella Festival in 2018, and participating in the 2018 SheSings Vocal Festival in Berkeley, CA,

Bare Rhythm can be heard on *Unstrumental's* two full-length albums and their most recent EP, "Unst." Their cover of "Safe and Sound" (OPB: Taylor Swift and The Civil Wars) was featured on Varsity Vocals Best of High School A Cappella Compilation in 2018.

<https://www.chsacappella.com/>



CHS String Ensemble

The Calabasas High School String program encompasses two groups, the String Orchestra, and the Chamber Orchestra. Students in grades 9-12 participate in the ensembles which perform staples of the classical literature, as well as contemporary and popular music. Recent performances include festivals in Atlanta, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. as well as 3-4 yearly concerts at their home in the Calabasas PAEC. Students from the string program have gone on to play with orchestras at the college level (UC Berkeley, Cal Arts, UCLA, Ithaca College) as well as into music education.

<https://sites.google.com/lvUSD.org/chsmusic/classes/string-orchestra?authuser=0>

CHS Dance Team

The Calabasas High School Dance Team is an incredibly talented group of dancers who perform in multiple genres of dance at various school and community events. The team competes across Southern California and has won numerous awards including First Place National Champions in Contemporary, Hip Hop and Character Dance.

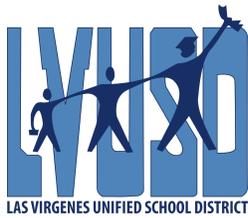
<http://www.chsdance.com/>

RYAN GLEASON - Our Host

From the age of 2, Ryan Gleason has been looking for his big moment on stage. In high school, he played Extra # 2 in the musical *Damn Yankees* but was unable to leverage that role into an upstart movie career. While waiting for his moment to shine, he has served as an educational administrator for the past decade and is the current Director of Education and Leadership for the Las Virgenes Unified School District. Now, his dream will come true in *Dream Big and Hold On*, when he gets his big break in hosting a benefit concert.

BILL GARRETT - Special Guest

Bill Garrett has been a Theatre Educator at Calabasas High School for the past 19 years. He is proud to be working at his alma mater, where he found his passion for the arts. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts at California State University, Northridge and his Master's Degree in Education at Pepperdine University. Having directed over 40 mainstage productions at CHS, Bill is a strong advocate for the performing arts in education and currently serves on the board of the Drama Teachers' Association of Southern California. Awards include LA County Teacher of the Year- 2014, two time CHS "Golden C" recipient, LVUSD Teacher of the Year- 2014, and LA County's Most Inspirational Teacher – 2006.



ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Josh Barroll - Musical Director

Joshua Barroll has been the director of the music program at Calabasas High School in Southern California since 1997. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and Percussion Performance from Boston University as well as a Master's Degree in Music Education from Northwestern University.

Mr. Barroll has directed numerous nationally recognized groups including choirs, jazz bands, and concert ensembles. In the early 2000's he created both *Uninstrumental* and *Bare Rhythm* at Calabasas High School. Since their creation, each group has been recognized as one of the premier high school a cappella groups in the country.

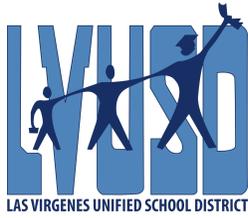
<https://sites.google.com/lvUSD.org/chsmusic/staff>

Gilles Chiasson - Producer

Gilles Chiasson currently serves as Theater Manager of LVUSD's Performing Arts Education Centers in Agoura Hills and Calabasas. Prior to that, he served as Producing Director of the Reprise Theatre Company in Los Angeles, where his productions of *Kiss Me, Kate* and *Cabaret* won Ovation and LA Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Musical. Gilles served as Associate Director of the world premiere of *Way of the Wiseguy* at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, and also directed Katya Lidsky's groundbreaking one-woman show, *I'm Sorry*, at Hollywood's Lounge Theatre and the NY Fringe Festival.

As an actor, Gilles originated roles in the Original Broadway Casts of *RENT*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Civil War*, and *Baz Luhrmann's La Boheme*; and he performed leading roles in the national tours of *Les Miserables* and *Forever Plaid*. Off-Broadway, Gilles originated roles in the World Premieres of *Groundhog* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Fermat's Last Tango* (York Theatre), and received an Obie Award for his work in the original production of *RENT* (New York Theatre Workshop). Gilles can be heard on the Original Cast Recordings of *RENT*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Fermat's Last Tango*, and *La Boheme*, as well as his solo CD entitled *Slow Down*. Gilles wrote the rock opera, *chrysalis*; and conceived and co-wrote the living newspaper revue, *FISHWRAP*. Gilles is a founder and Emeritus Board Member of Upstate New York's Adirondack Theatre Festival, a long-time member of the New York Theatre Workshop's Usual Suspects, and a member of Bobby Moresco Actors' Gym. Gilles dedicates his work on this production and everything in his life to his wife, Sherri, and their two boys, Hugo and Beau.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilles_Chiasson



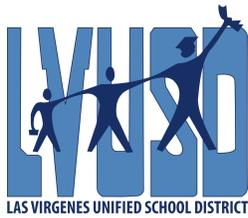
Aaron Kohen - Conductor

Aaron Kohen has been teaching at Calabasas High School for the past 14 years. He is currently the director of the Jazz, Orchestra and Guitar programs and directs the Marching Band and Symphonic Band. He received his training at the University of Chicago and USC and credits his successes to the many wonderful teachers and mentors with whom he has studied. Mr. Kohen is passionate about the importance of the arts, and music in particular, to the lives of all students.

<https://sites.google.com/lvUSD.org/chsmusic/staff>

David Krassner - Producer

David Krassner is currently teaching theatre and directing shows at Agoura High School. He has spent the previous seven years teaching downtown at GRAND ARTS as well as overseeing productions of Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight, Los Angeles*, Suzi Lori Parks *365*, the student- directed production of *Cannibal, The Musical*, as well as *Charley's Aunt*, two Student Outreach Shows, and *The Laramie Project*. Some of his many acting performances include the original Broadway company of Harvey Fierstein's Tony award winning play *Torch Song Trilogy*, off- Broadway, several National Tours, as well as appearances in some of our country's finest regional theatres. He has appeared in over 40 television episodes most recently on *Castle, Medium, Arrested Development* and *Without a Trace*. He is the co-creator and co-director of *Camp Bravo*, an award-winning Theatre Arts Summer Program now in its 25th season and also served as artistic director of *Theater 40* in Beverly Hills. His previous Los Angeles directing projects have won numerous awards, including *Twilight of the Gods, The Immigrant*, most notably his production of *House of Correction*, which was listed by the LA Times as one of the "top 10 shows of the year". Most importantly, he is the proud parent of Andrzej and Nina, and he could not accomplish any of this work without the support and patience of his amazing partner, Arthur.



Adrian Noack - Technical Supervisor

Adrian Noack is the Technical Director of the Calabasas PAEC, and the Stagecraft teacher for Calabasas High School. He graduated from CSU Long Beach with a BA in Technical Theater. His previous work in arts education includes being the Manager of Youth Ensembles at Pacific Symphony as well as production manager and drum line tech at Mater Dei High School. His experience in live events includes managing and designing events for AEG, Event Eleven, The Clinton Foundation, Guess, Neiman Marcus, Nordstrom, and the Irvine Company.

He joined the faculty at Calabasas High School in 2016 after working at both the Agoura and Calabasas PAECs as an ATD for three years.

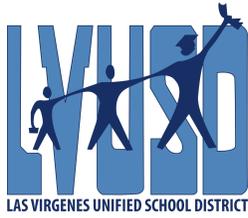
Alana Weiss - Vocal Coach

Alana Weiss is a private voice and performance coach (alanavoice.com) and has been part of the national a cappella community for nearly two decades.

An alumni of Calabasas High School, Alana received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara where she majored in Dramatic Art with an emphasis in Directing. She was a founding member of UCSB's premiere pop/rock a cappella group, Naked Voices, and in 2001, Alana joined Joshua Barroll in creating *Uninstrumental* and, later, *Bare Rhythm*.

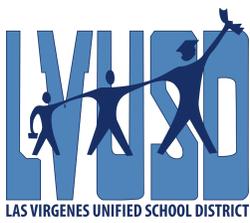
In addition to her close ties with the music department at CHS, Alana has also vocal directed a number of the school's main stage musicals including *Legally Blonde* and *West Side Story*.

<https://sites.google.com/lvUSD.org/chsmusic/staff>



About LVUSD

Las Virgenes Unified is a student-centered district serving approximately 11,500 students from the areas of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills and the Los Angeles County portion of Westlake Village. LVUSD places great value on partnering with students, staff, parents, and community members to nurture curious and engaged learners and citizens. The District encompasses sixteen schools, spanning preschool through high school. LVUSD offers a multitude of distinctive programs, serving the diverse needs of its student body. The District and its individual schools have received numerous accolades including, most notably, College Board’s AP Honor Roll, California Distinguished Schools, High-Performance District in American Institute for Research, award-winning music and athletic programs, and many more.



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LVUSD BEACON FOR THE ARTS FUND

The LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund is a segregated, secure fund that is held and managed by the California Community Foundation, one of the oldest and largest charitable fund administrators in southern California. The Beacon Fund can be used strictly for the support of LVUSD performing arts programs and the operation and maintenance of the Performing Arts Education Centers. Expenditures from the Fund are directed solely by The LVUSD Performing Arts Education Center Advisory Committee, comprised of community members, performing arts teachers, principals, School Board members and LVUSD business officials, all of whom have a deep commitment to the role of the arts in a complete education and as a meaningful part of community life.

Make a gift that keeps on giving. This is a unique opportunity to honor a family member or graduate, or to pay tribute to a wonderful teacher or friend, while simultaneously providing vital support to the LVUSD performing arts programs and their new, state-of-the-art homes, the PAECs.

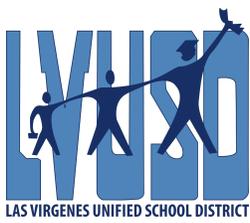
Your donation of \$1,000 or \$2,500 will permanently name a seat in the MainStage Theater illustrated by a plaque prominently displaying any name you designate. Your donation of \$5,000 or higher will permanently name a PAEC room, theatre, lobby, or even the building. Two beautiful plaques bearing the name you designate will be prominently featured next to the room or space you name as well as on the Donor Wall in one of our Main Lobbies.

Become an LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund Donor in the way that suits you best. Download the appropriate pledge form for all donations at www.thePAECs.org, and then submit the completed form to:

The Performing Arts Education Centers, LVUSD, 4111 Las Virgenes Rd. Calabasas, CA 91302

Payments may be processed with the pledge form or made directly to the California Community Foundation (CCF) by one of the following methods: by check made payable to *The LVUSD Beacon for the Arts Fund*, by credit card, or by gifts of appreciated securities. You can also contribute through corporate matching gifts or another Donor Advised Fund. A variety of Installment Payment Plans are also available.

Contact Gilles Chiasson, Theatre Manager, at theatermanager@lvusd.org or 818-591-1209, ext. 2, to discuss the many ways you can support the Fund to determine the one that best suits you. The Fund's current goal is \$5 million. Join us by making a gift today! For more information, visit www.thePAECs.org.



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The Performing Arts Education Center

Thanks to a significant community investment, the dream of having state-of-the-art performance venues in the Las Virgenes community has been realized. By passing the Measure G construction bond in 2006, the community enabled the Las Virgenes Unified School District to build two professionally-equipped theatres designed to enhance educational opportunities for all students, as well as bring top-quality arts programming to the community as a whole.

Each PAEC features a 650-seat Main Stage Theater and a Black Box Theater with a flexible seating configuration to accommodate up to 100 seats. In addition, each PAEC features advanced technology for classroom instruction and lectures, a full orchestra pit with hydraulic lift, professional acoustics, lighting and sound systems, high-quality dressing rooms, a scene shop, a costume shop, a green room, a full fly gallery, rear projection capabilities, as well as a concession booth and box office in each lobby. For more information, visit www.thePAECs.org.

About LVUSD

The Las Virgenes Unified School District is located in northern Los Angeles County and encompasses the cities of Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, and Westlake Village. It is a destination public school district, well known for its educational excellence in both academics and the performing arts. The District and its individual schools have received numerous accolades including, most notably, College Board's AP Honor Roll, National Blue Ribbon Schools Award, California Gold Ribbon Schools Award, California Distinguished Schools Award, U.S. News Best High Schools Award, and has been named a High Performance District in American Institute for Research. The District is ranked in the top 2% in the California Advanced Placement Index and offers a wide variety of programs including Dual-Immersion, L-STEM, International Baccalaureate, Arts & Media Academy, STEAM, AP Capstone, Waldorf-inspired school, preschool, and world-class arts, drama, music, and dance programs. For more information, visit www.LVUSD.org.