



**LAWRENCE
HAS TALENT**

APRIL 11, 2024
INAUGURAL PERFORMANCE
LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL

PRESENTED BY:



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
Education Foundation
Funding Excellence in Education

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY SCHOOL.



- Residential renovations
- Commercial projects
- New construction
- Remodeling
- Roofing services
- Siding installation
- Deck construction
- Window and door replacement
- Kitchen and bathroom remodeling
- Basement finishing

Goreckigeneralconstruction.com
Let's discuss your next project.
Call today for a free estimate.
[609-516-5293](tel:609-516-5293)

Experience top-notch craftsmanship with Gorecki General Construction. As a family-owned local business serving NJ and PA, we bring your visions to life with unparalleled dedication. From residential renovations to commercial projects, trust us to exceed your expectations. Contact us today and see the difference!



**CREATE
YOUR
DREAM HOME**



Mention this ad for a 10% discount



Goreckigeneralconstruction.com

[609-516-5293](tel:609-516-5293)





WELCOME!

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to the inaugural “Lawrence Has Talent”, hosted by the Lawrence Township Education Foundation (LTEF)!

This evening, we gather not just as an audience, but as a community, to shine a spotlight on the remarkable talents that flourish among us. We are thrilled to showcase 15 dynamic acts right here on the Lawrence High School stage, featuring singers, dancers, artists playing their instruments, and other amazing talents. This diversity in performance is a testament to the creativity and vibrancy within Lawrence Township, and we couldn't be more proud to support and celebrate it together.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every sponsor, advertiser, donor, and community member who has supported us. Your generosity has enabled the LTEF to fund 1,100 educational grants, contributing over \$4.6 million to Lawrence Township Public Schools over the past 32 years. These funds, including nearly \$136,000 in 2022-2023, are directed towards programs that significantly enhance the educational experiences of all students in LTPS across essential areas such as **Arts & Cultural Enrichment, Classroom Technology & Resources, Equity & Inclusion, and STEM Training & Programming**. We are committed to fostering excellence, creativity, and achievement in education. Thank you for your continued support and for being an integral part of this special night.

As we embark on this evening's journey of talent and celebration, we thank all those who auditioned and wish all our finalists nothing but the best.. May you all have a memorable experience, filled with joy, inspiration, and community spirit - break a leg!

Enjoy the Show!



Drue Stapleton
President, Board of Trustees
Lawrence Township Education Foundation

LTEF IMPACT IN 2022-2023

\$136K IN FUNDING

48 GRANTS



ALL 7 LTPS SCHOOLS
IMPACTED BY GRANTS

23%
HEALTH &
CHARACTER
GRANTS

18%
ART &
MUSIC
GRANTS

32%
SCIENCE &
MATH
GRANTS

7%
TECHNOLOGY
GRANTS

4%
LITERACY
GRANTS



Join us in
making a
difference and
donate by
scanning the
QR code!



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
Education Foundation
Funding Excellence in Education

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY SCHOOL.

 LTEFNJ  @LTEFNJ  @LTEFNJ

www.ltefnj.org

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

WELCOME

ACT I

Gavin & Zoe Prikriil
Keanu LaMarre
Will Sternbach
Brianna Polite
Angela Reitter
Nikki Rochelle
Mia Swingle
Kyleigh Brennan

INTERMISSION

ACT II

Victoria Mozitis, Miss New Jersey*
David Meriney
Bianca Agosto
Gia Birchenough
Gavin Wright
Jason Bembry
Kieran Hanna
Ziyon James
Matthew Swanson, Mentalist Magician*

**WINNERS
AWARDED**

19 & Over (\$1000)
18 & Under (\$1000)
Audience Choice (\$500)
LTEF Board Choice (\$500)

** Performances are not part of judging.*

MEET THE FINALISTS

GAVIN & ZOE PRIKRIL | 18 & Under Category



This brother-sister duo has musical theater in their blood and can regularly be found at their favorite place, Music Mountain There in Lambertville. Gavin is 16 and goes to Lawrence High School and Zoe is 13 and goes to Lawrence Middle School. Both their parents perform in musical theater and they have grown up attending shows and being in shows and they both love it! Gavin & Zoe will be performing “Bop to the Top” from *High School Musical*, which they love for its playfulness and sibling rivalry.

KEANU LAMARRE | 18 & Under Category



Keanu is a junior in high school who plays football for Lawrence, as well as performed in multiple shows at Lawrence and Mercer County Community College. If he isn't performing on stage or playing on field, he is most likely cooking or writing his own music. Keanu will be singing “My Way” by Frank Sinatra.

MEET THE FINALISTS

WILL STERNBACH | 18 & Under Category



After receiving his first guitar at the age of 8, Will decided that he wanted to play piano. After moving to Lawrenceville at the end of 2020, Will decided to take the guitar out of his closet and has been playing ever since. He is also a founding member of the local band Tension and plays at the LHS coffee house. Will is a

freshman at Lawrence High School and loves the legendary guitarist Eddie Van Halen. He has been working on his own music and is very excited to be performing “Eruption” by Van Halen tonight.

BRIANNA POLITE | 18 & Under Category



Brianna is a 14-year-old student at Lawrence High School. She has loved musical theater ever since she saw her first Broadway show at 6 years old. She looks up to singers like Beyonce and Whitney Houston. Brianna will be singing “Wishing You

Were Somehow Here Again” from *Phantom of the Opera*.

MEET THE FINALISTS

ANGELA REITTER | *19 & Over Category*



Angela found her passion for hula hooping while on vacation. Once she picked up the right size hula hoop, she was hooked. She taught herself and then started teaching others the fun creative fitness that is hula hooping. She currently teaches classes for the Lawrence Recreation Department; she feels the need to share her love of hula hooping with as many other people as she can.

Angela will perform an original hula hoop act called Color Me Hoopy to the song “All Shook Up” by Whissel.

NIKKI ROCHELLE | *19 & Over Category*



Nikki is a multi-talented artist, singer, and songwriter from Mercer County. She moved to Lawrenceville a few years ago and has been loving getting to know our amazing town. She has been a singer and performer for a long time and loves to create and

perform, she also loves to read. Nikki will be performing an original song entitled “No Shame.”

MEET THE FINALISTS

MIA SWINGLE | 18 & Under Category



Mia is currently a Freshman at Lawrence High School. She began her singing journey in Kindergarten, and with the encouragement of her music teacher in elementary school, she started taking vocal lessons in 3rd grade. Even before this, she

had taken up piano lessons in 2nd grade, emphasizing her strong passion for music. She has been performing ever since, falling in love with musical theater, proving the value of a great teacher. Mia will be singing “Watch What Happens” from the musical *Newsies*.

KYLEIGH BRENNAN | 18 & Under Category



Kyleigh has been dancing since she was two years old and loves the competitive aspect of dance. She is one of four children and is a 3rd grader at Ben Franklin Elementary School. Fun fact: both her parents are LTPS teachers! In the summer

she loves to swim and draw. Tonight, Kyleigh will be performing a solo dance to “Time to Say Goodbye.”

MEET THE FINALISTS

DAVID MERINEY | *19 & Over Category*



David is 20 years old and attends Mercer County Community College. He has been around music his whole life, his dad had a jam band and at an early age, he was sitting in, listening, and learning. He started playing guitar but switched to his brother's instrument, drums somewhere along

the way. David will be performing an original composition for his drum solo.

BIANCA AGOSTO | *18 & Under Category*



Bianca has been singing since before she could talk and loves that music lets her express her emotions in a new way. She is 9 years old and attends Ben Franklin Elementary School. Tonight, Bianca will be singing "Snowman" by Sia.

MEET THE FINALISTS

GIA BIRCHENOUGH | 18 & Under Category



Gia is 12 years old and attends Lawrence Middle School. She has been dancing since she was 5 years old and her favorite style of dance is Jazz. She is a Competitive Dancer at CaRu Entertainment in Pennington. Gia will be performing a solo dance to “Feeling Good”.

GAVIN WRIGHT | 19 & Over Category



Originally hailing from Wichita Kansas, Gavin, 20 years old, moved to Lawrenceville to attend Rider University. They started singing in 2nd grade and performed in their high school musicals, where they fell in love with musical theater and performing. Gavin will be singing “All Falls Down” from the musical *Chaplin*.

MEET THE FINALISTS

JASON BEMBRY | *19 & Over Category*



Jason is a 27-year-old singer/songwriter from Lawrence who has been playing the piano since he was very young. At first, he taught himself how to play, finally taking lessons at the age of 10. Jason has been the recipient of two LTEF grants to help compose and perform

original music with Lawrence Intermediate School and Lawrence Middle School orchestra students. He will be performing a song that he wrote himself tonight, entitled “Walls.”

KIERAN HANNA | *18 & Under Category*



Kieran is a 16-year-old student at Lawrence High School who has been studying the Chinese Yo-Yo for the last six years at the Princeton Chinese Language School. PCLS has been an important part of Kieran’s life, connecting him to his Chinese heritage. Kieran feels that the yo-yo helps him to express his heritage in

a new way. He will be performing an act with the Chinese Yo-yo’s tonight.

MEET THE FINALISTS

ZIYON JAMES | *18 & Under Category*



Ziyon is a 15-year-old self-taught piano player, who first played the piano at age 11 and fell in love with playing. He says it is all he thinks about, playing the piano is his passion. Ziyon will be playing popular songs he arranged on the piano.

YOU BE THE JUDGE!

**Put your judge's hat on and choose the winner
of the \$500 Audience Choice Prize!**

The audience will be utilizing a text to vote system similar to the way they do it on a certain tv show.

After the last act is complete, scan the below QR code, enter the number code and you can pick your favorite act. You get one vote, make sure you pick your favorite!

We will announce the winner along with the judges' picked winners.



**Code:
117-480-320**

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE

MATTHEW SWANSON



Matthew Swanson is a distinguished Mentalist-Magician whose captivating performances traverse the vibrant cities of Philadelphia and New York. Renowned for his regular appearances in esteemed variety shows and exclusive private events, Matthew enchants audiences

with an exquisite blend of mentalism and magic. Beyond his spellbinding illusions, he is an adept Tarot and Palm Reader, providing insightful and mesmerizing experiences. His unique talents make him a sought-after entertainer, embodying the essence of luxury and demand in the world of high-end entertainment. Matthew Swanson is truly a master of his craft, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those fortunate enough to witness his performances.

OUR EMCEE

RASHAD MALIK DAVIS



Rashad Malik Davis graduated from Tufts University with degrees in Anthropology and Chinese Language & Culture, and then received his Master's degree in Animation from the Savannah College of Art & Design. As a writer and illustrator, his work focuses on diversity and inclusion, fantasy, empathy, and emotional literacy for young people and adults alike.

In 2017, Chapter 1 of his *Carefree Like Me* series won the Best Indie Book Award in the Children's category. Chapter 2 of the same series won the 2019 Best Indie Illustration Award as well. To learn more about Rashad and view his portfolio, visit www.ramalikillustrations.com

INTRODUCING THE JUDGES

TODD DELLINGER



Todd Dellinger is Chair of the Department of Performing Arts at Rider University and Associate Professor of Arts & Entertainment Industries Management. Before academia, he led national and regional arts institutions where he produced over \$10M in entertainment - from professional theatre

and musical theatre to world-renowned dance with the likes of the historic Martha Graham Dance Company (NYC), A Noise Within Classical Repertory Theatre (Los Angeles) and TexARTS (Austin) which he founded along with Broadway performer Robin Lewis and where the duo produced Broadway Series productions at Austin's historic Paramount as well as Off-Broadway and Youth Series productions in the Capitol Lake Region theatre which they built. In these roles, he's produced international and national tours, New York and Los Angeles seasons, directed and taught various professionals and young people, and raised over \$20M in support of arts and culture over his 20-plus years before joining Rider. Prior, Dellinger was a professional (AEA, SAG/AFTRA) performer on stage and in film & television.

INTRODUCING THE JUDGES

RUTH MARKOE



Ruth Markoe, a Lawrenceville resident since 1980, is an active director and performer in the region. She is the owner/ artistic director of Theater To Go which has been producing comedy interactive theatrical entertainment since 1992 and is now also known for its stage productions, most recently

directing *Roebling: The Story of the Brooklyn Bridge* and *A Lovesong for Miss Lydia* at Kelsey Theatre. Her long history in theater includes directing *Cabaret*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Twentieth Century*, *Room Service* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* for which she earned Kelsey Awards for Outstanding Director & Outstanding Production of a Play. Ruth has also directed *Noises Off!* at the Bucks County Playhouse and *Riding the Comet* at the NY Theater Summerfest. Some of her favorite acting roles include Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Dr. Prentice in *Beyond Therapy* and she was nominated for an NJACT Perry Award for her role as Yenta in MP On Stage production of *Fiddler on the Roof* at Kelsey. Learn more at www.theatertogo.com and on FB @TheaterToGoNJ.

INTRODUCING THE JUDGES

VICTORIA MOZITIS



Victoria Mozitis currently serves as Miss New Jersey 2023 and competed in the 102nd Miss America Competition in 2024. Victoria graduated from Rider University in 2023, where she majored in Musical Theatre and minored in Arts and Entertainment Industries Management. She had the privilege of closing out her time at Rider as “Lois Lane/ Bianca” in Cole Porter’s *Kiss Me*

Kate, under the direction of Broadway veterans T. Oliver Reid and Robin Lewis. At the age of three, Victoria was playing all seven of the Von Trapp children in her own production of *The Sound of Music*, which took place on the hearth of her fireplace. Her love of performing led her to play “Molly” in her elementary school drama club’s very first production, *Annie*. When she was thirteen, Victoria made her professional debut in *Mary Poppins* at The Walnut Street Theatre, directed by Wayne Bryan and choreographed by Linda Goodrich. Other professional credits include “Beth March” in *Little Women* at The Eagle Theatre and “Belle” in *Beauty and the Beast* at The Broadway Theatre of Pitman, to name some favorites.

As a special treat, Victoria will be performing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” from *The Wizard of Oz* tonight.



The Bank of Princeton

Bank Wisely.

*Proud Supporter
of the*

Lawrence Township Education Foundation

Conveniently Located Throughout
The Tri-State Metro Area



Member
FDIC

www.thebankofprinceton.com | 609.981.8900



Go Gia! We love you!

**The Birchenough,
Tara & Hallowell Families**

**Thank you
Matt Tara at
5STARS General
Contracting for
your support.**



5STARS
GENERAL CONTRACTOR INC.
FREE ESTIMATES
LICENSED & INSURED

- ROOFING • SIDING • STUCCO REMEDIATION
- RENOVATIONS • MASONRY • KITCHEN & BATHROOM

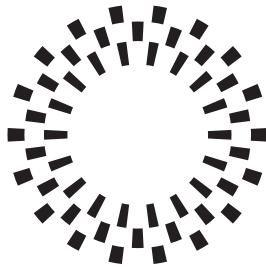
609-858-4109
www.5starsgc.com



Haldeman Lexus Is Proud To Support
Lawrence Township Education Foundation!

Good Luck To All The Finalists
Break a Leg!

609 – 375 - 1000
2630 Brunswick Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
www.HaldemanLexus.com



capitahealth

Minds Advancing Medicine

capitalhealth.org

@capitalhealthnj     

NEW JERSEY NECK & BACK INSTITUTE, P.C.



At NJNBI, Our Patient Is Our #1 Priority

New Jersey Neck & Back Institute, P.C., is a dedicated spinal surgery practice that emphasizes excellence and patient-centered service.

Our spine surgeon, Sandro LaRocca, M.D., FAOS, has built his career around specializing in spinal surgery procedures that treat a diverse variety of neurological and degenerative spinal issues. Through a philosophy of compassion, patient education, and cutting-edge treatment, Dr. LaRocca and his staff are committed to providing transformational improvements to the quality of life of patients throughout Central New Jersey. Visit our offices in Lawrenceville, Wall Township, Mount Laurel, or North Brunswick.



Lawrenceville
3131 PRINCETON PIKE
08648

North Brunswick
2090 NJ-27 STE 102
08902

Mount Laurel
1004 Birchfield Drive
08054

Wall Township
1985 Hwy 34 Ste 6A
07719

HABLAMOS ESPAÑOL: BILINGUAL STAFF AT ALL LOCATIONS



Congrats to all Finalists!

Developing and Celebrating
Lawrence Talent for over 30 Years!
Adults and Kids 3 & up

Come try a FREE CLASS!
In the Lawrence Shopping Center
www.karatefitusa.net 609-690-9060





HEALTH HAPPENS HERE 

- AUTOIMMUNITY
- CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH
- DEPRESSION & ANXIETY
- DETOXIFICATION ISSUES
- DIABETES
- DIGESTIVE HEALTH
- FATIGUE
- HORMONE BALANCE
- LYME DISEASE
- REGENERATIVE AESTHETICS
- THYROID DISORDERS
- WEIGHTLOSS
- WOMEN'S HEALTH

**LOOK BETTER.
FEEL BETTER.
LIVE BETTER.
LONGER.**

At PIH we take a personalized approach to true healthcare.

 **PRINCETON INTEGRATIVE HEALTH**
(609) 512-1468 PRINCETONIH.COM

SCAN ME



BOOK A COMPLIMENTARY HEALTH STRATEGY SESSION WITH US
to find out how we can help!

*Our board certified team is your **partner in health**, supporting you through root cause resolution and innovative therapeutics, on your journey to **optimal health and well-being**.*

COLDWELL BANKER REALTY
Makes New Jersey Move!

#1 in NJ for Sales Volume and Units &
#1 in NJ for Luxury Sales in 2023*



10 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08542

609-921-1411



Nancy Maloney
Sales Associate
Cell: 609-498-5552

Proud Lawrence Township
Education Foundation
Board of Trustee Member

Lawrence Campus— An extensive continuum of care.

609.896.9500 • lawrencerehabhospital.com
2381 Lawrenceville Rd. Lawrence Township, NJ 08648

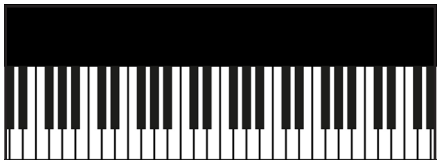


**“Dance is an art;
Paint your dream and
follow it”**



**Congratulations Kyleigh!
We are so proud of you!**

**Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Keegan,
Kendall & Kullen**



**Congratulations
Ziyon!**

**Keep shooting for the stars!
We are so proud of you!**

**Mr. Todd, Mr. Jay,
Ms. June & Ms. Kim**



**Best of Luck
to the finalists!**

paper
rock
DESIGN STUDIO

design | branding | creative strategies

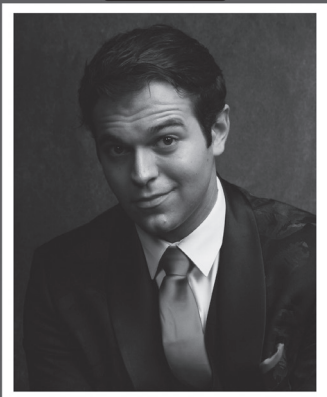
paperrockdesign.com



PHOTOGRAPHY BY
FABIENNE

*ADD A TOUCH
OF MAGIC*

MATTHEW SWANSON
MIRACLEMAGICPRO.COM
(609) 250-2683



BRING A LITTLE MAGIC AND
MYSTICISM TO YOUR NEXT PARTY
OR SPECIAL EVENT

CLASSY FUN TO LEAVE FRIENDS
REMEMBERING **YOU**


Chick-fil-A®

Lawrenceville

Thank you to our Generous Sponsors!

Without them we could not do the important work that we do!

Headline Sponsor

Gorecki General Construction

Show Sponsor

Church & Dwight

Prize Sponsor

Capital Health

Lexus

Talent Sponsor

Princeton Integrative Health

The Terraces

NJ Neck & Back Institute

Playbill Ad Sponsors

Bank of Princeton

Karate Fit USA

The Brennan Family

The Birchenough/Tara & Hallowell Families

5STARS General Contracting

Mr. Todd, Mr. Jay, Ms. June & Ms. Kim

Nancy Maloney

**Thank you to the following people
for helping us produce this amazing
community event!**

Host: Rashad Malik David

Judges: Todd Dellinger, Ruth Markoe, Victoria Mozitis

Special Performers: Victoria Mozitis & Matthew Swanson

Producing Director: Jenn Hsiao

Video Production: Damian Bartolacci

Photography: Fabienne Calkins, Photography by Fabienne

Graphic Design: Kimberly Eaves-Gelb, Paper Rock Design

Technical Support: Tom Ervin, LHS Media Technician

LTPS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Michele Bowes, President

Michelle King, Ph.D.

Amanda Santos, Vice President

Diana Pasculli

Arundel Clarke

Robert Pluta

Patricia (Pepper) Evans

Kevin Van Hise, Esq.

Jo Ann Groeger

LTPS Superintendent Dr. Robyn Klim

Business Administrator Tom Eldridge &

LTPS Facilities Department

The LTPS Administrators, Teachers and Staff

LHS Student Technicians and Stage Crew

LHS Student Volunteers

Steven Prentiss, Informational Technology Supervisor

Mike Gola, Mercer Digital Printing

Lawrence Township Education Foundation Board of Trustees

Drue Stapleton, President
Charles Snellings, Vice President
Elizabeth Miller, Treasurer
Vessy Dusichka, Immediate Past President

TRUSTEES

Kathie Baldassari
Pat Devlin
Kimberly Eaves-Gelb
Jenn Hsiao
Paulla Levinsky
Nancy Maloney
Kim McNear
Jeremy Ryan
Catherine Taeffner
Andrew Tunnard
Jessical Welsh

Bonne Giglio, Executive Director



**COMING
SOON**

**Loved the performances tonight?
Want to showcase your talent next year?**

Sign up to get up-to-date information on
Lawrence Has Talent, including audition dates for 2025!





THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS,
DONORS AND ATTENDEES FOR
SUPPORTING THE LTEF.



GIVE A LITTLE & MAKE
A BIG DIFFERENCE!
Without donations from
the community, we
could not accomplish all
that we do!

The mission of the Lawrence Township Education Foundation is to foster excellence, creativity and achievement in the Lawrence Township Public Schools. Through grant requests from teachers and school administrators, LTEF funds programs that will have a substantial and lasting impact on Lawrence Township public school students. These programs span the curriculum from math and science to literacy and physical education. LTEF funding impacts every student in every public school in Lawrence Township.



LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
Education Foundation
Funding Excellence in Education

EVERY STUDENT. EVERY SCHOOL.

www.ltefnj.org