

# Youth in Arts®

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## SING OUT! FOR TEEN MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you missing live music? We have the answer: come to SING OUT!, a virtual fundraiser to benefit the award-winning [`Til Dawn](#).

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the group – the Bay Area’s longest-running, year-round teen *a cappella* ensemble. The SING OUT! concert lineup includes popular `Til Dawn alumni **Delta Rae** and **Drew Gasparini**, as well as performances from Still Dawn, a chorus of `Til Dawn singers from years past.

The event happens **Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.** Tickets for the event are \$25 and can be purchased [here](#), and all proceeds benefit the `Til Dawn Scholarship Fund. **Hear a taste of their music** [here](#).

“Supporting young people in the discovery of their creative voices, literally and figuratively, is some of the most vital work of our time,” said longtime director [Austin Willacy](#). “We greatly appreciate the support.”

`Til Dawn is an advanced vocal music program that draws its members from local high schools. It celebrates the value of the arts and encourages positive messages about meaningful social issues. The group performs a mix of rock, pop, blues, jazz and soul standards and contemporary hits, in addition to original songs by group members.

At this year’s SING OUT!, `Til Dawn will perform their own rendition of Alicia Keys’ hit, “No One.” For the past several months, the group has rehearsed virtually on Zoom.

There’s no shortage of talent in the `Til Dawn family. Willacy is also a renowned singer/songwriter who records as a solo artist and with the pioneering *a cappella* group, [The House Jacks](#).

Several of the ensemble’s former members have gone onto professional careers, including **Delta Rae**. The Great American-Southern-Gothic-Male-Female-Soul-Folk-Pop-Country-Family Band has just released their third album. “The Light” is the band’s first full-length independent release.

When the band started about a decade ago, it was a folky four-piece centered around the hair-raising harmonies and songwriting of the Hölljes siblings—Ian (guitar, vocals), Eric (piano, guitar, vocals), and Brittany (vocals) — and their friend, Liz Hopkins (vocals). As the band’s sound evolved, so did its lineup.

The following year, they added Mike McKee (drums) and Grant Emerson (bass) to help flesh out their singular mix of Gothic American roots and gospel-tinged country.

On the strength of an early EP, the band landed a deal for their full-length debut, “Carry The Fire.” The music racked up more than 30 million streams on Spotify, landed the band in the studio with Lindsey Buckingham, and helped earn them performances on “The Tonight Show” and “Conan” alongside festival slots at Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, and more. In 2015, they followed it up with “After It All,” which debuted at #3 on the Billboard Heatseekers chart.

By the time the band moved to Nashville and signed with a major label in 2017, they seemed poised for superstardom. Instead, Delta Rae found themselves in limbo, unable to record the music they felt most passionate about. Rather than give up, the band struck out on their own, launching a Kickstarter in hopes of raising the \$30,000 they needed to fund the record themselves. Within hours, they’d raised nearly \$500,000 to become the most-funded indie band in the platform’s history.

**Drew Gasparini** is an award-winning musical theatre composer/lyricist, a singer/songwriter, and a teacher. He is currently developing a number of new stage musicals including the Broadway-bound musical adaptation of “The Karate Kid” for Gorgeous Entertainment; “It’s Kind of a Funny Story” for Universal Theatrical Group; “Night Shift” for Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures; “The Whipping Boy” (co-lyrics by Alex Brightman); and “We Aren’t Kids Anymore” (a song cycle).

Drew’s unique brand of musical theatre concerts have been performed to sold-out houses around the world at venues such as Joe’s Pub, Feinstein’s/54 Below, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center in D.C., and the St. James Theater in London.

Drew can frequently be found with his talented sisters, Kasie and Chloe, performing as the band Saint Adeline; or joined onstage by his three best friends — Alex Brightman, F. Michael Haynie and Andrew Kober — performing absurd and obscene musical comedy as The (M)orons. Drew currently hosts a monthly series at Rockwood Music Hall titled Drew Gasparini & Friends where he invites young artists to share the stage with him. Represented by Concord Music Publishing, he has had songs featured on TV shows and ad campaigns.



DELTA RAE

*photo credit: Shervin Lainez*



DREW GASPARINI

*photo credit: Matthew Murphy*

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