

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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High School Notes Premieres November 20

*Local High School A Cappella Groups Featured in
Digital Performance Sponsored by Kaiser Permanente
and Produced by Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA)*

Walnut Creek, CA – Kaiser Permanente’s High School Notes digital a cappella concert will premiere online **Friday, November 20 at 7 pm Pacific**. The program, underwritten by Kaiser Permanente, will feature a cappella music by local high school students across the Diablo region. This digital concert will be emceed and directed by Deke Sharon, producer of NBC’s *The Sing-Off* and arranger/director/producer of Universal’s three *Pitch Perfect* movies. NBC Bay Area’s Marcus Washington will host the program, which is being produced by DRAA board member, Peters Suh.

Participating high schools include Acalanes, College Park, Concord, Contra Costa School of Performing Arts, De Anza, Monte Vista, Northgate, and San Ramon Valley. During this time of distance learning and Zoom calls, each student sang and recorded their individual part. Then the parts were combined, professionally mixed and edited by Deke Sharon for at-home enjoyment.

The concert will premiere on DRAA’s [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [Walnut Creek TV](#), and [edTV](#) to encourage students, parents, and relatives to support their high school group, the arts, and education. The audio will also be streamed on Acaville Radio. While the concert will premiere on 11/20 at 7pm Pacific, the full performance will remain available online to be viewed at alternate times.

www.draa.org/presents/hsn

To watch the event on YouTube: <https://go.draa.org/HSNyoutube>

To watch the event on Facebook: <https://go.draa.org/HSNfacebook>

In a recent Active Minds student survey, 8 in 10 students noted they are struggling with focus on schoolwork and avoiding distractions. <https://www.activeminds.org/studentsurvey/> An article in the NY Times noted, “The shuttering of the American education system severed students from more than just classrooms, friends and extracurricular activities. It has also cut off an estimated 55 million children and teenagers from school staff members whose open doors and compassionate advice helped them build self-esteem, navigate the pressures of adolescence . . .”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/20/us/coronavirus-young-people-emotional-toll.html>

With this in mind, High School Notes was developed to engage students in a new and exciting project while remaining socially distanced. "More than anything else about school, my students miss singing together," says Bruce Rockwell, director of vocal music at College Park High School. "And a virtual choir is the next best thing to singing together in the same room. Even though they are contributing their tracks separately and from the bubble of their rooms, through this project they have been able to experience the joy of music-making again – and they really do feel that sense of togetherness that has been so tragically lacking in their lives." The program is similarly designed for the listeners, since the arts are critical to the health and mental well-being of both the performers and their audience.

Through a collaboration with Kaiser Permanente, the Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) created High School Notes to support the community by safely connecting people with the arts they love. Modeled after their sell-out College Notes a cappella program, High School Notes is a new project aimed at outreach and engagement for local high school students, teachers, families, and communities.

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About Kaiser Permanente (KP)

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve 12.3 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery and world-class chronic disease management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education and the support of community health. For more information, go to: kp.org/share

About Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA)

As the nonprofit partner of the Leshner Center for the Arts (LCA), the Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) enriches the lives of thousands of East Bay residents every year by raising funds to support the full spectrum of arts at the Leshner Center including drama, musical theatre, dance, opera, music, and the visual arts. In addition, through its Arts Access program, DRAA is dedicated to providing families, children, seniors, educators and underserved or at-risk individuals the opportunity to experience the arts. www.draa.org