



Annual Benefit Music Fest at Vanderbilt to Help Spread Awareness About Sexual Violence

***Lights on the Lawn* Provides Students Myriad Ways to Support Victims Through Fund-raiser as New School Year Begins**

Founder Teddy Raskin and Chief of Staff Toby Ryan will be available for Zoom and phone interviews beginning Sept. 10

For the first time since the pandemic, Vanderbilt students and the Nashville community will unite in person through music on Sept. 16 to raise money and awareness for victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence.

Alums Teddy Raskin, and Ryan Sterne created the benefit concert Lights on the Lawn in 2012 to raise money for a friend injured in a boating accident. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020 and 2021, the concert went virtual through Twitch livestreams, and fundraising became difficult. This year, however, the festival takes place on the Vanderbilt Alumni Lawn from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. CST.

“One hundred percent of the proceeds go to the Mary Parish Center. Our main goal is to be a voice for the helpless, and what better way than through music,” Ryan said.

Pop DJ-duo Two Friends headlines. With a sold-out concert at Nashville’s Marathon Music Works on Jan. 20, over 12,000 ticket sales, and upcoming performances in New York, San Diego, and Chicago, Two Friends are ready to perform the first Vanderbilt concert of the year. Their discography can be found in the following link: <https://soundcloud.com/two-friends>

“We are proud to offer a diverse selection of music within the same genre. Two Friends are a great way to start off the academic year concerts” Ryan said.

Over the past decade, Lights on the Lawn has raised \$648, 000 for local charities and interpersonal violence survivors. The donations go to newly built housing units, expansions of therapy, and case management for survivors.

“It is very rewarding seeing people having fun knowing that their intentions and proceeds go to a greater cause. This event is about having fun, but also about being the change of the future,” Ryan said.

Lights on the Lawn strives for a diverse student audience. Previous headliners include pop DJ-duos, *The Chainsmokers*, *Louis the Child*, Pop DJs *Diplo*, *Gryffin*, and *Afrojack*. This year's sponsor is Brownlee Clothing Company.

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About *Lights on the Lawn*

For more information, visit www.lightsonthelawn.org. To donate, visit [Fundraiser by Lights On The Lawn : Lights on the Lawn 10: For The Mary Parrish Center \(gofundme.com\)](https://www.gofundme.com/fundraiser-by-lights-on-the-lawn).

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