

Chris Perry is the unequivocal god of music

by Rachel Salisbury
Editor-in-Chief

As David Foster Wallace wrote in his novel *Infinite Jest*, "Everybody is identical in their secret unspoken belief that way deep down they are different from everyone else." For senior **Chris Perry**, whose music is greatly inspired by Wallace, this unspoken belief is expressed and confirmed through his prodigious songwriting.

Although Perry's solo musical career debuted just over a year ago with his first song "Roman Candle," Perry has been writing songs since before he could play guitar. He has always appreciated songwriting as a form of self-expression through which he can "filter his emotions," but he recognizes that he has come along way since his outset.

Perry's first try at songwriting was in middle school, when he and his brother, 2011 LGHS alumni Phil Perry, wrote and performed Led Zeppelin-inspired rock music. In his sophomore year, Perry continued songwriting and played drums in a band called HYPE he formed with other LGHS students. Considering these endeavors a part of his musical infancy, Perry notes that his style has diverged greatly from those of both his brother and his previous bandmates since he began working independently.

While songwriting as part of a group gave him experience, Perry



courtesy R. Salisbury

feels that he only found his individual style once he worked alone. The music that has emerged as a result of his solo projects has led to introspective, personal lyrics; the vocals backed up by only guitar add to the impression that Perry's songwriting is a natural, direct transposition of his consciousness.

Perry decided to teach himself to play guitar once he began pursuing individual songwriting. Other than taking AP Music Theory and participating in school choir, Perry has had no formal musical training. This has never inhibited his creativity; Perry explains, "I never think, 'I have these chords, now I need to use theory to determine which chords will follow.' It's always kind of a crap shoot."

Just as his composition is uncalculated, Perry's songwriting schedule is also spontaneous and irregular. Perry describes his writing process as "these little clouds of inspiration, that come down and rain ideas on me for a while, and then they leave and I can't think of anything." Perry writes whenever inspiration strikes, most often after reading books by authors such as Wallace.

Wallace is not Perry's only inspiration when writing, as many of his songs are full of homages to books, movies, and other musicians. For example, the title of his song "Dedalus Stomp" is a reference to James Joyce, and the song has ten other references to various works of art throughout its lyrics. His most recent song, "Blind Amnesia," was influenced by a novel by Yukio Mishima. Other authors from whom Perry draws inspiration are Thomas Pynchon, Vladimir Nabokov, and Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

Perry's literary interests have led him to consider a future career in English, and he plans to major in English in college while also continuing songwriting. "My main two career options are musician and writer," admits Perry. "So, you know, [my] plan B for musician [is] a writer... Not really a great plan B. I just want to do something I'm interested in." Perry hopes to find compatible musicians to work with in college, but plans to continue working alone for now to discover his own personal style.

Other musicians who have inspired Perry include Mark Kozelek from Red House Painters, Jeff Tweedy from Wilco, and Ty Segall, whom Perry knows personally. Perry also has a nostalgic appreciation for Vampire Weekend, and resembles the band's frontman Ezra Koenig, if Koenig was crossed with a lumberjack. Perry listens to a wide range of music

and says, "I never want to exclude anything, because I feel like there are good examples of music in any genre. But I can't really listen to most pop-punk, and I can't really get into really cheesy power metal."

In addition to drawing from authors and other musicians, Perry says, "I get a lot of imagery from movies." Although he spends less time watching movies than he does reading or songwriting, Perry is a fan of Paul Thomas Anderson, more specifically his movies *There Will Be Blood* and *Boogie Nights*. Perry explains, "I don't pull the same influence from movies as I do from literature, but any art that I interact with I get something from, otherwise I wouldn't be interacting with it."

While Perry's many muses find their way into his work, it is important to him that this integration is never a copy-paste insertion of other media, but a meaningful assimilation of art that inspires him. "I guess it all comes from me," explains Perry.

Perry's attitude toward music and art in general comes largely from reading Wallace's *Infinite Jest*. What specifically resonates with Perry is how the novel "interacts with sincerity and irony and how irony affects our culture and perception of the world around us." Perry further explains that the way "art culture has become so ironic and sardonic that we have trouble legitimately interacting with art" has been something he has always felt, but been unable to verbalize as Wallace does in *Infinite Jest*.

Right now, Perry interacts with his listeners through social media and the occasional LGHS talent show performance. Perry's artistic ability, individuality, and originality set him apart from the deluge of other singer-songwriters sharing their work on the internet. If history repeats itself, as it often does, the progress Perry has seen so far should continue to make him worth keeping tabs on in the future, whether that be through the spoken or written word. **Scan the QR code to check out Perry's music and follow him on soundcloud.**



Aussie Emerson Hughes dances through high school

by Danika Lyle
News Editor

Sophomore **Emerson Hughes** has taken LGHS by storm with her dancing, bubbly personality, and unusual Australian lingo. Hughes moved to Los Gatos from Australia during the second semester of her freshman year and comments that it was, "hard to adapt to the curriculum here at first." But despite early obstacles, Hughes found her solace in the dance team at LGHS after joining this year and has been doing wonderfully ever since.

One of Hughes's favorite pastimes is dancing. In Australia, she would practice twelve hours a week and attend competitions almost every weekend. When asked about the LGHS dance team, Hughes said, "The dance team schedule here is much more relaxed, but here we get to perform at rallies and sporting events which is super fun." Her involvement with the team has allowed Hughes to make friends with people from all different grade levels.

Although she enjoys the social aspects of dance, Hughes loves dance because it provides her with an outlet for self-expression. Although she enjoys the social aspects of dance, Hughes loves dance because it

provides her with an outlet for self-expression. "When I hear music, it's like therapy, a way to relax and relieve stress. Through music and dancing, I'm able to stay calm and approach problems better." Sometimes, Hughes even choreographs dances for herself. This is an entirely different experience, which she says, "feels a lot different than dancing with other people. You have to make the dance bigger with more excitement because it's just you. Also, you can make it more personal to your own style and dancing strengths. You have to make

conscious decisions when you dance, and feel excited about them."

Hughes transfers the excitement from her dancing into her bubbly and contagious personality. Friends of the Aussie rarely find "Emmy" without a smile on her face. Hughes loves smiling, positivity, having fun, and making others feel welcome. Her kindness is one of the reasons that LGHS seems to love this foreign fox.

Even though the fifteen-year-old fits in like a native, Hughes still has her roots in Australia. When asked to confirm or reject stereotypes about typical Australian colloquialisms, Hughes responded, "Oh yeah, my favorite one is 'heaps.' I think the American equivalent is hella or something. Like, I can say, 'Oh that's heaps cool.'" Other favorites include "cozzies" (swimming costumes), "avo" (afternoon), and "joggers" (sneakers). Although the above are commonly used by Hughes, she reports that "no one says 'shrimp on the barbie.' That's a lie." Hughes also states that her favorite Aussie snack is vegemite. She has it almost every morning and says that she "doesn't understand why Americans don't like it!"

Hughes success at the school shows no signs of stopping, look out for this Aussie at the next Spirit Rally.



photos courtesy E. Hughes

Sam is a horror junkie

by Rowyn van Miltenburg
National Editor

Horror movie aficionado, yearbook staff member, dedicated MUN member, and passionate tennis player are just a few terms one can use to describe freshman **Sam Zukin**. Graduating from a twenty-eight-person eighth grade class, it's amazing how quickly Zukin has found his place here at LGHS.

As a self-proclaimed avid fan of horror movies, Zukin enjoys a good psychological thriller when picking a movie to watch. "I am fascinated by them because of how humans can be pretty brutal and inhumane," Zukin explained. He added, "I think that horror movies show us that the world is actually a dark place and that a lot of violence happens that we are unaware of."

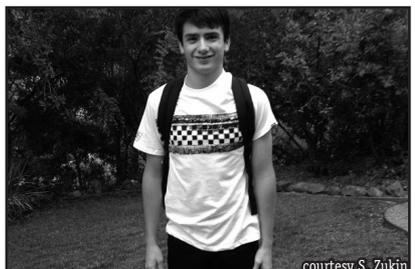
With evident analytical skills, it isn't hard to imagine that English is Zukin's favorite subject. His love for English drove him to join the Yearbook staff this year as a writer. Zukin has "always enjoyed writing journalism-based pieces," so when Zukin learned of his acceptance into the program, it's understandable that he was "elated to be joining a top-notch publication." As one of three freshmen on staff, Zukin hopes to be on staff for all four years of his high school career. He says, "Yearbook will be a great learning experience for me, especially if I choose a field involving journalism."

Along with a passion for horror movies and getting involved in yearbook, Zukin has found a niche in Model United Nations (MUN). After watching his brother get

involved in MUN, Zukin decided he wanted to join in high school, too. He added, "Diplomacy between countries is fascinating." After enjoying his first conference at Stanford University in October, Zukin is looking forward to his second conference at Berkeley at the end of February.

In addition to Yearbook and MUN, Zukin is also dedicated tennis player, in and out of season. He started playing tennis as early as fourth grade, but said, "I became more engaged in the sport in sixth and seventh grade when I started playing at Courtside." He regularly practices, plays matches, and participates in mini-tournaments at Courtside. This year, however, Zukin will also be a member of the LGHS tennis team. He says, "It will be an awesome opportunity to grow and develop as a tennis player." Zukin says he loves tennis because of the emphasis on technique, but added, "I also love smashing the ball and hitting it hard."

Whether you find Zukin camped out on his couch watching a horror movie, solving world problems, or smashing tennis balls on the courts, you can be sure that he is loving what he's doing.



courtesy S. Zukin

CAITLIN KEEPS LGHS LAUGHING

by Sean Clark
Culture Editor

If you don't live under a rock, chances are Junior Caitlin Buckley has made you laugh hysterically on many occasions. Buckley's brains, brawns, and sense of humor have made her into quite the campus celebrity.

As an experienced three-sport athlete, Buckley has mastered several sports over the course of her life, "I played softball for a long time and then I realized that I gained more weight during the softball season instead of losing it, and I realized that isn't good, so I quit." Buckley has played on the girls' varsity basketball team since last year and has also participated on the girls' lacrosse team, "lacrosse and softball are like my side chicks, but basketball is my main chick." When asked how the basketball team is doing, Buckley cringed and said the season has been "decent." If it's any concession, the team did beat Saratoga, which, according to Buckley, felt nice because she strongly dislikes "Toga."

Buckley reluctantly takes a rigorous course load, full of APs and extra curriculars. "My life isn't very fast-paced; sometimes I just space out at school and let a large period of time pass." With the help of a meticulously scheduled study regimen and some after school celery with cookie butter, Buckley is flourishing.

During third period, Buckley shifts her mind off of AP Physics and onto leadership, where she serves as the school treasurer, an integral role in the leadership class. Her duties include escaping from the chaos



photos courtesy C. Buckley

of the leadership classroom to the ASB office, where she counts money for hours on end.

Twice a year, leadership goes into "turbo drive" to put on Spirit Week. "Spirit Week is frantic. If you had the capacity to chug a hundred Red Bulls and survive, that's kind of what it feels like in leadership during Spirit Week."

Honestly, a really good Spirit Week is incomplete without at least five mental breakdowns."

When she's not at school or on the court, Buckley can be found taking Snapchat selfies with her dogs on the couch, "I play with my dogs a lot. I sound so lame. Like, Caitlin Buckley: the one person who's bound to own forty dogs. My dog, Peanut, is a total curmudgeon. My family vowed that we would never let our dog get fat, but lo and behold, he is fat." Buckley might use her dogs to compensate for being an only child. Buckley, who can usually find a punchline in any situation, says "there is nothing funny about being an only child."

Whether she's eating some bird on the basketball court, counting bills in leadership, or spending her entire day hanging with her dogs, Buckley can always be found laughing and making others laugh.

