

Hallapalooza, a Highland Hall Event, Draws Huge Crowd & Rave Reviews...

On Saturday, March 28th a crowd of over 1100 parents, faculty and friends gathered at Reseda High Auditorium for the biggest musical show in Highland Hall's 54 year history. Emceed by Melissa Etheridge, the event featured student performances ranging from classic rock to contemporary music as well as several classical music performances.

"It was the best student performance I've have ever seen," said one attendee. "The talent was just incredible." These sentiments were echoed by nearly everyone who left the theater that night.



The Hallapalooza idea was conceived four months ago as way to showcase the Highland Hall students' talents, and also to demonstrate the need for the new performance theater at Highland Hall. A group of parents, led by veteran rock musician, Steve Porcaro and director Amy Tinkham, spent several months mentoring students of all ages through the whole process. Composer & musician Michael Turner coached the guitarists. Alumnus and UCLA music grad Max Kaplan orchestrated and arranged most of the music for the show. Another alumnus, Shane Barakan, sang a heartfelt rendition of "Beautiful Day" by U2 which brought down the house. The evening also featured original songs by five Highland Hall students.

The goal of the evening was to raise enough funds to be able to break ground on Highland Hall's new theater by Spring of 2010. The event was a huge success, raising over \$187,000 by the night's end and bringing us to 85% of the school's overall fundraising goal of \$2 million.

"Hallapalooza was much more than a school talent show. When first asked to participate, that's what I thought it would be. It turned out that from seniors to second graders, from parents to alumni, all came ready to make a difference for the school. The music was great, and the performance, I think, greatly exceeded everyone's expectations. What a special night, raising money for something that the talent at this school not only wants, but truly deserves." - Shane Barakan ('05)

The school's mission is "to guide students from nursery age through high school in the unique Waldorf curriculum, striving to endow each student with discernment in thought and action, a joy of learning, and a sense of wonder and reverence for life." To learn more about Highland Hall events go to www.highlandhall.org.