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Contact: Uschi De Rose

(714) 524-1350 ext. 111

Yorba Linda Students Spread Love of Music as Part of the European Charity Band

YORBA LINDA, CA –Four students from Heritage Oak Private Education took their show on the road as they entertained for underprivileged children as part of the Meritas International family of schools European Charity Band Tour June 12-27. Middle school students Tiffany Babb, Michael Botts, Sarah Murray, and Kevin Yang joined with 70 other music, vocal and dance students from Florida, Nevada, Texas, and Mexico for this one-of-a-kind performance opportunity.

Tied into the efforts of International Make-a-Wish Organization, the European Charity Band Tour allows students to perform in numerous cities and towns to bring cheer to terminally ill and disadvantaged children. This year's tour included visits to London, Salzburg, Amsterdam, Prague, Vienna, Brussels and Geneva. While in Geneva, the group made a musical stopover at its Meritas sister school, College du Leman, and did a benefit concert for Make-A-Wish Switzerland.

“The European Charity Band Tour has certainly provided an exciting and memorable international experience for four of our students but that's just the tip of the iceberg for us.” Explains Greg Cygan, President of Heritage Oak, “Over the next year, most of our students will take part in regular international videoconferences and our eighth graders will have the opportunity to take part in our first-ever international student exchanges. We understand the importance of education on the global level and are excited to use our new resources to help our students learn more about other countries and their inhabitants.”

A week before the tour began, Heritage Oak's musicians Kevin, Sarah, Tiffany, and Michael, joined the other performers at North Broward Preparatory School (NBPS) in Coconut Creek, Florida for their first full-band rehearsal. While Sarah and Tiffany graced the group with their vocal talents, Kevin joined the strings as a violinist and Michael took his place behind the keyboards.

Heritage Oak is a traditional school appealing to parents who are seeing a proven curriculum and a safe, nurturing environment. Community awareness, academic achievement, and family values are just part of a program that focuses on the development of the whole child.

The U.S. Department of Education bestowed its highest honor upon Heritage Oak when it awarded the school the 1998-1999 “Blue Ribbon” award. The “Blue Ribbon”, our Nations most prestigious education award, distinguishes Heritage Oak for its excellence in leadership, teaching, curriculum, student achievement, parent involvement, and community support.

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