

Christmas concert to feature international recording artist



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He came from Australia with a dream to sing, and his dream came true right here in Utah, where his albums have reached No. 1 on Deseret Book's Best Selling List. International recording artist Paul "Cactus Jack" La Marr will join the American Fork-based American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic and American Heritage Youth Chorus Saturday for their fifth annual Christmas benefit concerts.

"An American Heritage Christmas with Cactus Jack is one of those concerts you won't want to miss," said Kayson Brown, Lyceum Philharmonic Director. "After this Christmas season, I think everyone in Utah will know the name of Cactus Jack. He is an incredibly talented and sincere man and we are honored to have him join the American

Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic for what will be our fifth annual Christmas concerts."

Mr. Brown said American Heritage School is in a unique position to celebrate the season with a real focus on Christ and families.

"Those who have been to our American Heritage concerts before know that we are able to be bold and reach families with the true Spirit of Christmas while we entertain," he said. "I am so proud of how these students have prepared not only for the concerts on December 8th, but for the full run of performances of Cactus Jack's *A Time of Forgiving* Christmas Musical this Christmas Season."

Paul "Cactus Jack" La Marr commends the youth orchestra and choir, saying it has been a powerful experience to hear his music come to life. "There's something about the spirit and energy of these young musicians as they use their talents to spread a Christmas message about Christ, Forgiveness, and Families," he said. "It just feels like Christmas to me and I can't wait for December 8th!"

Head of School Grant Beckwith said this annual concert is a one-of-kind celebration of the heritage of Christmas and the spirit of Christ in American History.

"We invite you to join us, enjoy the concerts, and help us continue our work of faith-based education for the rising generation," he said.

What: "An American Heritage Christmas"

When: Saturday, December 8th, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Where: American Heritage School, 736 N. 1100 E., Am. Fork, Utah

Tickets: \$12. Student and Family discounts available. Tickets sold by phone 801.642.0055, at the door and online at www.American-Heritage.org/show.

Proceeds from the concerts directly benefit American Heritage Orchestra programs and additional donations in support of the school and students can be made to American Heritage directly, or online at www.American-Heritage.org/Home/Give.

About Paul "Cactus Jack" La Marr

Paul "Cactus Jack" La Marr is a self-taught, self-made musician with four commercially released recordings in the past 18 months. A successful business owner and carpenter from Australia, Cactus recently put aside hammer and nail for a full-time career in music. His albums have reached No. 1 on Deseret Book's Best Selling List. He has performed to critical acclaim across the United States and Australia. With six additional "A Carpenter's Hymns" albums scheduled through Deseret Book over the next four years, Cactus is passionate about his LDS faith and frequently speaks and performs at firesides for youth, openly sharing his faith through his music. He will also be releasing his first Country Rock album, "Right or Left" on Jan 26, 2013 with BMI.

As the scriptwriter, composer, and lead performer in the new musical, "A Time of Forgiving," Cactus Jack is soon to be a household name across the Wasatch Front. The new musical is being performed in Salt Lake City, Logan, and Orem, Utah with plans for expansion to Idaho, Arizona, and other venues across the West in 2013. Cactus is excited to be combining with the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic for "An American Heritage Christmas" as well as for each of his Christmas season performances of "A Time of Forgiving."

About The American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic

The American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic has been named "Best Youth Performing Ensemble" by Best of State® Utah for four consecutive years. Their 2012 joint release with The Piano Guys, Beethoven's 5 Secrets, spent 48 days as the No. 1 download on the iTunes Classical Charts. This professional-level student ensemble has performed with David Archuleta, The 5 Browns, Alex Boyé, Peter Breinholt, Jenny Oaks Baker, Paul Cardall, Michael Ballam, Dallyn Vail Bayles, George Dyer, Jordan Bluth, and Cactus Jack La MARR. The Lyceum Philharmonic recently released its first commercial album entitled Hearts & Minds, which features sacred LDS music alongside classical masterworks by Mahler, Bernstein, and others. These accomplished young musicians are all high-school aged and come from schools across the state of Utah to participate in the after-school Lyceum Orchestras Program at American Heritage School.

About American Heritage School

American Heritage School is an independent, non-profit organization with the motto of "Educating Hearts and Minds for Latter-day Families." American Heritage began in 1970 with less than 50 students in grades K-6 after the BY High and the Brigham Young Training School closed on the BYU campus. American Heritage has since grown to become a nationally

accredited school with 650 students in grades K-12, an international student program, a distance education program, and community music programs - including the American Heritage Lyceum Orchestras, the Lyceum Music Festival, and the American Heritage Youth Chorus. Learn more at www.American-Heritage.org.