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# Academy of Visual & Performing Arts Culver City High School

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For Immediate Release

## **AVPA Musicians Perform at Music Showcase**

Culver City, CA, May 18, 2006

Culver City  
High School  
and the  
Academy of  
Visual and  
Performing  
Arts  
(AVPA)



will present

their Spring Music Showcase on Wednesday, May 31 at 7:00 in the Robert Frost Auditorium. This free concert offers the community an excellent opportunity to hear award-winning music from Culver City student ensembles, including the AVPA Chamber Singers and Jazz Combo as well as the high school's Concert Choir and Concert Band. The Culver City Middle School Choir will also perform with their director Paul Witt.

These young musicians and their directors have had a busy few weeks. AVPA's Chamber Singers, under the direction of CCHS math teacher, Lisa Michel, performed at the recent Culver City Education Foundation's annual Tribute to the Stars dinner and the next day won first place in their division at the Music in the Parks Festival at Universal Studios.

CCHS music teacher, Dr. Tony Spano, who is also AVPA's Executive Director and head of its music department, directed the CCHS Concert Choir and Concert Band at the Music in the Parks Festival. These two groups also took first place in their divisions. In addition, three members of the Concert Choir, Teri Ann White, Rachel Smith, and Allison Lewis, were recognized as the "most outstanding accompanist" for their percussion performance with the choir. As part of the adjudication for the festival, each



group also received a rating. Both choirs were rated "excellent" while the band received a "superior," the highest possible category.

According to Spano, "The students have worked hard all year. The Music in the Parks event gave them validation for their efforts. This Music Showcase will demonstrate their achievements to their families and community. We're very proud of all of them."

At the spring Music Showcase, these ensembles will recreate the music that won them their high ratings and prizes at the Music in the Parks Festival. The AVPA Chamber Singers will sing the madrigal, "Fair Phyllis I Saw," and the jazz standard, "When I fall in Love." The Concert Choir will perform an African folk song, "Dansi Na Kumba" and the jazz piece, "Java Jive." "Two Andean Folk Songs" and the "Rhapsody of the Sea" will be among the repertoire for the Concert Band. The ensembles will also delight the audience with several additional pieces.

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous community support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information about the Academy, go to [www.avpa.org](http://www.avpa.org) or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 x6094 or x6009.

**Photo Caption:**

IMG\_4891: AVPA's Chamber Singers perform at the Culver City Education Foundation's Tribute to the Stars

IMG\_5074: AVPA's Chamber Singers with their director, Lisa Michel