

Unificationist Talent Explodes at Limelight II in Maryland

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The Second Annual Limelight Arts Explosion was held at New Hope Academy in Landover Hills, Maryland on Sunday, June 12, 2011. Limelight featured 15 performing-arts acts, including 30 high-school-aged youth and young adults from the Washington, D.C., metro area. The young artists came together to raise money for “The Gambia Project,” an annual service mission to the nation of Gambia in West Africa.

The Gambia Project was founded by Beverly Berndt, who also has served as Sunday School director for the New Hope Family Church in Landover Hills. For 14 years, Mrs. Bernt has been traveling to Gambia to develop the “Side by Side” program which encourages cross-cultural exchanges and service work. This year, funds raised from Limelight have been used to fund a school in Gambia which has been renamed “Side by Side,” to honor Mrs. Berndt’s work.



From left, Claire Stein (25), Shumei Yanagi (20), and David Moffitt (25) perform Dispatch’s “Elias.”

Several performers presented original songs, including “River by the Road,” by Andrea Jones (15) “Hypocrites,” by Abi Goldberg (16), and “It’s about to Rain,” by a local band, “The Rumble,” composed of young adults George Burton, Amael Rodrigues, Jake Mas, Wongil Dadachanji, and Matt Holden.

Testimonies and slideshows from The Gambia were shared as well. Sun Jae and Mie Smith (24), showed a trailer for their upcoming full-length original movie, *Ai Means Love*.



Abi Goldberg (16), performed "Hypocrites," her own composition.

The night was filled with African-inspired performances such as David Moffitt (25), Clair Stein (25) and Shumei Yanagi's (20) performance of Dispatch's "Elias" and a grand finale of all performers dancing to Shakira's "Waka Waka."

A fabulous arts display was held during intermission featuring photos, 3D displays, paintings, and sketches by seven local artists. The show was fantastic and the visual arts display, organized by Laurel Halsey (23), was magnificent. All in all, about 40 youth and young adults from the Washington, D.C., metro area put together an amazing demonstration of the talents of our community!