

MEDIA RELEASE

Media Contact

Kayson Brown
Director, Lyceum Philharmonic
(801) 557-7764 (m)
kbrown@ahsmaail.com

**American Heritage School Presents 6th Annual “An American Heritage Christmas”
with Special Guests Daniel Beck and Jessie Funk**

November 25, 2013, American Fork, Utah – On December 7th, recording artists Daniel Beck and Jessie Funk join the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic and American Heritage Youth Chorus for its sixth annual Christmas concert program. The matinee and evening concerts will include a hundred-piece orchestra and a 150-voice choir. These student and professional performers aim to educate and entertain by bringing audiences closer to Christ and each other this Christmastime.

Each year, American Heritage School is in a unique position to celebrate the season with a true focus on Christ and families. There are a number of Christmas concerts presented each year, and those who have been to American Heritage concerts before know that we are able to be bold and reach families with the true spirit of Christmas while we entertain our audiences.

Lyceum Philharmonic Director Kayson Brown said, “Many in our community know the Lyceum Philharmonic from its YouTube videos with The Piano Guys, or may have seen the orchestra performing last month with Jackie Evancho and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra at the Conference Center, but it is not until you are able to see these students really using their talents to bring the true spirit of Christmas to audiences that you get a sincere appreciation for both their talent and their testimony.”

Brown continued, “We first got to know Daniel Beck when the Lyceum Philharmonic and Daniel were both performing at the Stadium of Fire’s Freedom Festival in 2011. He has an AMAZING voice. If you don’t know his name, you will certainly recognize his voice. I hear him every week on Sunday radio programming and for good reason; he is without a doubt one of Utah’s rising stars!”

Daniel Beck said, "I couldn't be more thrilled to be performing with the Lyceum Philharmonic! When Kayson asked me to join them for this year’s Christmas concert, I could hardly contain my excitement. To be able to perform with a choir and full live orchestra filled with such talented young musicians is THE ultimate performing experience for me. I look forward to what will be wonderful concert.

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"Jessie Funk is well known to most Utah audiences," Brown said. "Her five solo albums and extensive performing career have made her a household name. This is our first opportunity to collaborate with Jessie and we are so impressed with her musicality, spirit and example."

Jessie Funk said, "I feel so honored to have the opportunity to perform with the Lyceum Philharmonic. The gift that Kayson is giving these beautiful children is so priceless. Music is so powerful and will forever help them remember their power!"

Head of School Grant Beckwith said, "True to American Heritage School's form, 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."

What: "An American Heritage Christmas"

When: Saturday, December 7th, 2013

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

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

Tickets: \$10. Student and Family discounts available. Tickets sold 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 Daniel Beck

World-renowned choral conductor Craig Jessop has called Daniel Beck "Utah's answer to Josh Groban." A popular local performer, Beck's fans have come to love his fun personality and fantastic vocal finesse. From lead roles in stage musicals to starring roles in several Liken The Scriptures DVDs, Daniel is a vocalist and recording artist, with his own solo albums "Abide With Me" and "Love Like That", and features on three EFY CDs. With a concert repertoire that spans Broadway show tunes to love songs to inspirational numbers, Daniel Beck has the power and the presence to win new fans every time he sings! Daniel considers his greatest accomplishment marrying the girl of his dreams and having five beautiful children. Learn more about Daniel at www.danielbeckmusic.com.

About Jessie Funk

As a professional vocalist, Jessie Funk has released five solo albums, published five books, and toured 36 states with the Broadway musical "Footloose." She has performed for former Vice-President Dick Cheney, has opened for Donny Osmond, Josh Grayson and Billy Dean, Kenny Loggins, and Collin Raye, and has toured with Broadway sensation Maureen McGovern. She has also been hired for hundreds of recording sessions as a studio vocalist, including for songs heard on TV's "America's Got Talent" and "The Biggest Loser." Jessie holds a leadership certification from the University of Notre Dame, is a certified life-coach, and will graduate from Capella University in June 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, emphasizing in child & adolescent behavior. Jessie has been a professional youth speaker for 10 years, and that passion led her to start a national non-profit organization called "The Ivy Girl Academy," a confidence and leadership-training program for teen ladies. Jessie's favorite role in life is that of adored wife and mother. Learn more about Jessie at www.jessiefunk.com.

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About The American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic

In November 2013, the American Heritage Lyceum Philharmonic partnered with MuzArt World Foundation™ for the “We Are Hope” concert, and performed with international recording artist Jackie Evancho for an audience of 15,000. In early 2013, the Lyceum Philharmonic performed with The Piano Guys for their nationally televised PBS Special and DVD, *The Piano Guys: Live at Red Butte Garden*. Their 2012 joint release of *Beethoven’s 5 Secrets* spent 48 days as the No. 1 download on the iTunes Classical Charts. This professional-level student ensemble has been named "Best Orchestra" by Best of State Utah® for the past five years. They have performed with Jackie Evancho, 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. In 2011, the Lyceum Philharmonic released its first commercial album entitled *Hearts & Minds*, featuring sacred LDS music alongside popular and classical masterworks by Mahler, Bernstein, and others. They are scheduled to release a follow-up album in April of 2014 entitled, *The Master*. 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. Learn more at www.LyceumPhilharmonic.org.

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.

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