



The Treatment and  
Learning Centers

**TLC**

*a family of services where caring comes first*

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## TLC's Katherine Thomas School Celebrates a Multicultural Holiday Students and Faculty Perform "A Winter Holiday Concert"

Rockville, MD—Approximately 85 students and faculty joined together in a stellar multicultural celebration of holiday musical pieces from Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hannukah in *The Winter Holiday Concert* at [TLC-The Treatment & Learning Centers' Katherine Thomas School](#) (KTS) on December 18. KTS is an independent day school for students in preschool through twelfth grade with moderate to severe language and learning disabilities and/or high-functioning autism.

"Each year the KTS students present a concert better than the year before which is exciting as a teacher because the students are growing as musicians. This year I challenged them with even more difficult pieces that have harmony, two-part variations and solos for selected students," states **Amy Gardiner**, Music Specialist at KTS. Gardiner adds that the songs selected demonstrate the National Music Standards of Learning and High School Music Objectives.

This year's concert was the first to feature a combined High School and Middle School Chorus and to feature a student conductor, **Robbie Nunez**, who sang a stirring "Deep River" solo. Also new this year was the Faculty Orff Ensemble and Faculty Flute Choir, which performed traditional Christmas carols. Piano accompanist and high school senior **Annabel Hunter**, another soloist, performed a graceful "Theme and Variations on Silent Night."

New High School Music Director **John Schucker** and assistant **Aaron Stone** led students from the guitar class and drum ensembles in lively original blues and student composed hip hop compositions and original variations of the popular traditional African drum songs "Siyahamba," featuring **Michelle Carey** on drums, "Mutwashi," and "Denadunn," a grand finale featuring all the students.

The KTS Chorus and Middle School Orff Ensemble performed lighthearted and traditional favorites "Jazzy Saint Nick," "Hannukkah Song," and "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." Also featured was "A Candle for Peace," dedicated to the men and women of the armed services, with **Nunez** directing the chorus and featuring soloists **Hayley Doyle**, **Alex Philpson**, **Gabby Wallace**, **Elise Larson**, **Austin Greenbaum**, and **Zach Range**.

Gardiner and Schucker offer special thanks to Assistant Music Teacher **Katieri Schmitt** and teacher's assistants **Tammy Zimmerman**, **Matheiu Bakima** and **Aimee Mijares**, High School Director **Rhona Schwartz** and Lower/Middle School Director **Thomas Sweet**, whose support made this concert possible.

[TLC—The Treatment and Learning Centers](#), is a non-profit organization that improves lives and expands possibilities for individuals with special needs. With over 57 years of service to the community, TLC is committed to integrity and excellence in our care and strives to assist all, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information visit [www.ttlc.org](http://www.ttlc.org).

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