

PRESS RELEASE –

## **“Spotlight on Talent” 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Celebration Show**

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The Producers from Heritage Arts Center Association are putting together a gala concert event on Saturday, October 25, 2008, celebrating 25 years of history of the “Spotlight on Talent” performing arts competition. Every spring talented students K through 12 have auditioned and performed in front of professional judges and huge audiences. They loved the stiff competition from up to 250 contestants to be named finalists, then winners of over \$2,000 in cash and trophies annually. Through the years the concept has remained strong, the quality is excellent, and the contest’s popularity with students has “exploded”. These last few years have seen record numbers of eager young people auditioning. This Silver Anniversary year was very special because the non-profit group produced TWO final shows, which allowed even more talented young people, 60 acts in all, to get their chance to “shine” on stage. This was quite an expansion, and the bill to produce both shows was over \$10,000 this year! The group came close to meeting expenses, and during follow-up discussions, the idea was born of putting on a show by former Spotlight contestants with perhaps proceeds from ticket sales helping to defray this year’s expenses.

The huge challenge was managing to find current contact information on the hundreds of talented artists who performed since its beginning. It took the entire summer, as most had scattered across the country, many with new married names. Producer Barbara Friedman is excited to announce the excellent lineup of talent: Becky Lane (vocal), Alicia Polk Guanio (dance), Laurel Frye (dance), Jade Green Schuler (dance), Marlo Hilton Katterman (dance), Kyle McCann (vocal), Laurel Weightman (dance group), Brant Barthle (vocal), Weston Johnson (vocal), Becky Friedman Groomes (piano), Tony Mercer (piano), Kayla Pate (baton), Stacey Enyart (dance), Careena Cornette (vocal & dance), and Erica Hayden (piano). These individuals gave thrilling talent performances as young students, but we can’t wait to see them now. Because of their ambition and gifts, and helped by the valuable performance and audition experience that the “Spotlight” competition afforded, they went on to win opportunities for advanced training. Many now teach and have their own studio. This night will dramatically demonstrate the purpose behind 25 years of this competition.

Community members who have enjoyed the exciting shows through the years will eagerly look forward to a chance to experience some of those marvelous talents again, even more beautifully polished and matured. Part of the fun will be seeing video clips of cute young performances from the past, followed by the “grown up” versions! The event will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 25, 2008, at the newly renovated Pasco Middle School Auditorium in Dade City, the site of the contest for many years. Tickets will be \$5 for students, \$15 for adults, and will be available at the door, and for 2 weeks before the show at the Dade City and Zephyrhills Chambers of Commerce. Don’t miss this amazing rare chance to celebrate and be inspired by the wonderful talents of our young people – it will be a long time before our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary show!