

Students record CD as a fundraiser

by Tony Potter Staff Writer tpotter@hibbingdailytribune.net | Posted: Saturday, April 30, 2016
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HIBBING — Their music has been described as calming, peaceful, uplifting and encouraging.

They are a group of 10 Victory Christian Academy (VCA) students who have combined their musical talents to record a contemporary Christian CD titled “It Is Well.” The CD was released Sunday.

“It’s kind of surreal,” said Emmalee Rabe of the VCA Student Ensemble. “... To pop a CD in and hear yourself is weird and pretty cool at the same time.”

Ensemble member Bjorn Smith said it’s been one of his best experiences.

“The best part is knowing we did it,” he said. “Each memory we’ve made throughout this process is awesome.”

Ensemble member Mia Baron said it feels good to say she’s a member of the group.

“We’re all proud of it,” she said. “It’s cool to be able to tell someone that I’m a part of this.”

The VCA Student Ensemble was created about a year ago to raise funds to send 23 students — including the ensemble members — on a school-related trip to the East Coast this October. The initial cost of the trip was about \$2,000 per student, but that amount has since been reduced “significantly,” according to Teacher Kristyn Sinnott.

The ensemble is hoping to sell at least 1,000 copies of the CD at \$10 apiece. At least 100 copies have been sold in just the first week.

“We want to sell even more if we can,” said ensemble member Julia Laulunen. “We’d like to get one to everyone.”

The CD includes several original songs as well as the ensemble’s own twist on classic hymns. Most of the songs are sung by either a duet or trio, and the only instruments used are a cello and a piano.



Concert, CD signing set for today

Tony PotterThe Victory Christian Academy Student Ensemble was formed to raise funds to send students on a trip to the East Coast in October. Ensemble members include back row from left: Bjorn Smith, Mia Baron, teacher Kristyn Sinnott, Erin Anderson and Luke Sinnott; and front row from left: Jesse Anderson, Emmalee Rabe, Julia Laulunen and Esther Jacobson. Missing from photo are Matthew Welch and Isabel Maki.

The CD has received a generally positive response from the community thus far.

“They all say they really like it,” said ensemble member Jesse Anderson. “That’s really good to hear.”

Smith said he shared it with some older members of his church who said they enjoyed it.

“They loved it,” he said. “It’s good for all ages. I think everyone will like it.”

The ensemble spent months practicing their music prior to recording the CD.

“We only had one day to record, so we had to be perfect,” said ensemble member Erin Anderson. “It was a very long day, but it’s been a great experience overall.”

To help promote the release of the CD, the VCA Student Ensemble is holding a concert and CD signing at 4 p.m. today at JJ’s Coffee & Cream in Hibbing. General admission is \$5. Children ages 10 and under are free.

Sinnott said she appreciates the students’ efforts in putting the CD and concert together.

“It really has been a blessing to work with these kids because they work so hard,” she said. “What they’re singing about, they believe in. You can tell it by the tone of their voices. Anyone who comes to the concert will notice that right away. It’s just so great to have a group of teenagers that enjoy doing something so positive for their school and community.”

Copies of the CD are available at JJ’s Coffee & Cream or online at www.cdbaby.com/cd/vcase.