

## "Redlands Got Talent!" performers take the stage

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Melissa Campbell, left, and Ashley Campbell, right, sing a duet during the Redlands Unified Schools Got Talent! show Sunday in Redlands. The competition, which included singing, dancing, and musical performances, was sponsored by the Redlands Educational Partnership Foundation. (GABRIEL LUIS ACOSTA/Staff Photographer)

REDLANDS - When the red curtain rose from the stage to reveal cellist Rachel Koh, she was the first performer at a new talent show showcasing East Valley students' skills.

Rachel, who attends Moore Middle School in Redlands, delivered a confident performance of a Joseph Haydn cello concerto featuring deft interplay between strings and piano.

The young cellist finished to applause and raves from the three judges who addressed her and the performers who followed. And with that, the first-ever "Redlands Unified Schools Got Talent" show was under way at Clock Auditorium, the historic venue at Redlands High School.

The Redlands Educational Partnership Foundation created the show as a fundraiser. The foundation raises money to support arts and science education.

"Everything we do is for the students, and this is music, so we figured, what better partnership than a talent show like 'Americas Got Talent'?" event organizer Sherri Olson said.

The Sunday afternoon talent show featured acts from a wide range of creative disciplines. The second performer, Beattie Middle School singer Emma Kern, followed the opening act with her rendition of Beyonce's "Listen."

Styles changed again with the third performer, Mariposa Elementary School student Jaclyn Litchfield, the show's first dancer, who impressed the audience as she moved between the stage's Corinthian columns with a spirited routine set to the sounds of Simon and Garfunkel's

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"Bridge Over Troubled Water."

The variety continued throughout the night. Pianist Angel Rideout of Redlands High School performed her original work, "Grandma's Song."

Angel, 16, said before the show that she has played the piano since age 4 and aspires to be a composer.

"I just grew up watching my mom play the piano, so she's my inspiration," Angel said.

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