

Malibu Life

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Eco Hero Kids rock to green theme



Dana Fineman / TMT's

The Eco Hero Kids performed Sunday at the Malibu Inn to celebrate the release of their first CD, which features an environmental theme. Pictured, from left: Ava Deikeler, Leilani Jones, Katarina Ulich, Ellery Smoller, Caitlyn Evers, Timmy Thames and TJ Jones.

By Melonie Magruder
Special to *The Malibu Times*

A group of young Malibu residents has taken on the challenges to the environment with rock and roll, and on Sunday rocked their message across with a concert at the Malibu Inn. Malibu's Eco Hero Kids also celebrated the release of their first eponymously titled CD.

Organized under the auspices of local singer-songwriter Julia Holland, the group has a serious message: wake up grownups, and save the planet we are inheriting.

Holland's brainchild was born of three personal passions: "I love singing, I'm crazy about songwriting and I'm concerned about the environment," she said. "Since kids are inheriting our mess, I thought a cool pop group would influence other kids' awareness."

Several years ago, Holland started writing some pop tunes designed to be sung "by kids, for kids," with upbeat tempos, clever lyrics and a pointed theme of environmental responsibility. Significantly, the songs highlight ordinary measures that anyone, even youngsters, can take to help preserve the planet's ecosystem.

When Holland set out to start building her pop group, she only had to look as far as her students. A private singing coach, Holland tapped her list of lively roster of pupils, most of them

local children attending local schools.

Several months of long Sunday afternoon rehearsals later, Holland has formed a nonprofit foundation, produced a bouncy CD sung by uniformly good voices, a witty and informative documentary video of the group's eco education and a great deal of hope to make a difference.

The group features Ava Deikeler, Caitlyn Evers, Dylan Grieco-Sissons, Ellery Smoller, Katarina Ulich, Leilani and TJ Jones and Timmy Thames.

"It was always about finding really good voices," Holland said. "And I wanted beautiful children, yes, but also articulate kids. They've worked very hard."

Their efforts seem to have paid off, as the Malibu Inn was packed to the rafters on Sunday. While attendees and supporters browsed T-shirts and CDs, others bid at a silent auction, or munched on cookies decorated as globes and dined at a buffet offered by the Green Truck organic catering company. Beverages included spring water bottled in plant-based, 100 percent compostable materials.

Local environmentalist Kelly Meyer was on hand to show support and is enthusiastic about the group's debut.

"I've heard all their songs and they are fantastic," Meyer said. "They are right on point, their message is their music and look at them. They're adorable."

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