



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Ann Conkle, Communications and Events Manager
Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation
Office: (310) 396-4557
ann.conkle@smmef.org
www.smmef.org

**13th Concert For The Arts Raises \$86,000
for Local Schools**

*Grammy® Winner Rick Springfield
and Terri Nunn from Berlin Headlined
Ed Foundation's Greg Coote Concert For The Arts*

SANTA MONICA, CA, March 16, 2018 – Grammy® winner Rick Springfield and Terri Nunn from Berlin headlined the 13th edition of the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation's annual benefit concert on March 10, raising more than \$86,000 for local public schools. Local favorite band VENICE and incredible SMMUSD student musicians joined the headliners on stage in a rousing celebration of arts education.

"It was truly an unforgettable evening," said Linda Greenberg, the Executive Director of the Education Foundation. "Every year at this show, the students are playing with rock stars for the first time and the stars have the unique opportunity to perform with a full choir, orchestra and horn section. The energy on stage is electric. We are so grateful to the artists, sponsors, attendees and students for making the event such a success."

In addition to performing on stage, students also took an active role in producing the show. Backstage, student technicians helped professionals with AV and lighting. In the audience, student ushers assisted the attendees. Hunter Pearson from Malibu High School designed this year's concert poster.

Highlights of the evening included Springfield's "Jessie's Girl" and "Don't Talk to Strangers" and Nunn's "Take My Breath Away" and "The Metro." Crowd favorites also included "River Deep Mountain High," sung by students Zoe D'Andrea and Sonam KC, and "Help From My Friends," the show's finale, which featured all artists and students.

Emmy® award-winning journalist Mark Steines, host of Hallmark Channel's "Home & Family," and longtime Los Angeles radio personality Cynthia Fox emceed the evening. The show also featured a live auction of signed Fender guitars, the DW Drums kit from the stage, a case of concert-branded Syrah, tickets to the "The Voice", and a vacation in Cabo San Lucas.

This year's concert sponsors included CIT's OneWest Bank, St. John's Health Center Foundation, Pacific Park, Santa Monica Daily Press, Sir Speedy, Software Management Consultants Inc., Bob's Market, Harley Ellis Deveraux/Moore Ruble Yudell, Huntley Santa Monica Beach, Payden & Rygel, DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Santa Monica, The Victorian/Basement Tavern, DW Drums, LeMeridien Delfina, DZ Solutions and Zildjian.

This was the 13th production of the Ed Foundation's popular concerts. Last year, the concert was renamed the Greg Coote Concert For The Arts, in memory of entertainment executive and SMMUSD parent Greg Coote. Coote led the Ed Foundation's For The Arts endowment campaign to ensure continuity of arts programming for students in the Santa Monica-Malibu public schools. He sadly passed away in 2014, but left an indelible mark on arts education in our local public schools.

Proceeds from the show will support arts programs in SMMUSD schools next year and the Education Foundation's For The Arts Endowment. These concerts have raised nearly \$1 million for arts programs in Santa Monica-Malibu public schools. Featuring Venice every year as the house band, past concerts have included Jackson Browne, David Crosby, Billy Idol, America, Heart, and many other icons, all of whom have donated their time and talents to perform with musicians and singers from SMMUSD high schools.

About the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation

All donations to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation fund excellent programs – from art to STEM to wellness – that shape our future problem solvers, visionaries and global citizens. Contributions to the Ed Foundation change the lives of students in the Santa Monica-Malibu public schools.

Established in 1982 by a dedicated group of parents, community leaders, and local business owners, the Ed Foundation raises funds to enhance and supplement the curriculum of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. The Ed Foundation's mission is to engage the community to invest in a vibrant educational experience for all students in the Santa Monica and Malibu public schools. The Ed Foundation raises funds through its annual campaign, endowment earnings and special events.

To learn more about the Ed Foundation, visit smmef.org or like them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/smmef.

###