



Members of Happy Hands Club pose on American Idol stage. They performed in Manhattan for members in New York stake.

## Happy Hands Club performs in Manhattan

BY NECIA P. SEAMONS Church News contributor

PRESTON, ID

A small group of Idaho girls made famous by the movie "Napoleon Dynamite" and featured with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir showed Church members in Manhattan, N.Y., the week of June 11 that the power of sacred music can reach beyond silenced ears to the hearts of those who love the Lord.

The young women of the Happy Hands Club, with parents and director, Dan Robertson, were invited to perform their "Never a Better Hero" and "Life of Christ" programs for members of the Church in New York City. The request for the club's visit came via the bidding of missionary couple Mike and Jeanne Davis, longtime friends of Brother Robertson.

Brother Davis is also the branch president of the 300 members in the Union Square Second Deaf Branch.

"It was really uplifting for the members to have a spiritual message in their own language without needing it translated," he said. To put that in perspective in a hearing world, it's the difference between listening to a song in monotone, and one sung with melody and harmony, he said. Most translations simply supply words.

"We're still hearing how much they felt the Spirit when the group was here," said President Davis.

For Amanda Bodily, 14, signing to the congregation of people who are deaf was one of her most enjoyable events of the trip to New York, she said.

"It was really a great experience. The deaf people were so appreciative just that we came."

The Happy Hands Club gave a fireside to members of the New York New York Stake.

Their itinerary included an impromptu performance on stage of the American Idol Grandstand at the Wax Museum. Members of the club were thrilled to pose on the world famous Radio City Music Hall stage, where the Tony Awards had been televised the day before.

Church News,  
week ending September 8, 2007