



**Contact:**  
Rosalind Weiss  
(321) 632-8610, ext. 203  
[rweiss@bacbrevard.com](mailto:rweiss@bacbrevard.com)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Very Special Arts-Brevard and Cogswell Street Studio Present  
Brevard County's Inaugural Performing Arts Showcase**

Rockledge, Fla. – Very Special Arts-Brevard (VSA-Brevard) and Cogswell Street Studio, the art program of Brevard Achievement Center (BAC), will present Brevard County's first "Performing Arts Showcase" featuring students and adults with disabilities on Wednesday, January 29 at 10:30 am in the Studio Theatre at the King Center for the Performing Arts in Melbourne. Admission is free and open to the public.

Eight classrooms of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students from Brevard Public Schools, as well as one adult group from BAC will perform dance, drama and music pieces during the event. Those performing from Brevard Public Schools are: instrumental music - Viera High School, Santana Hummel teacher and Kennedy Middle School, Cynthia Beckett teacher; vocal music - Southwest Middle School, Jessica Haislip teacher; drama - Eau Gallie High School, Deborah Kline and Candi Cook teachers; dance – Titusville High School, Veronica Marren teacher; Madison Middle School, Ann Raffery teacher; and Merritt Island High School, Zoe Conner teacher. Adult artists with disabilities will perform instrumental music under the guidance of Dayle Olson, professional harpist and retired President of BAC.

"I've witnessed firsthand the empowerment the performing arts provide to nurture people with disabilities from within," said Lori Emly, executive director of VSA-Brevard and Director of Cogswell Street Studio. "The arts give them the means to express themselves and communicate with others in ways no one else can imagine."

For more information about the showcase, visit [vsabrevard.org](http://vsabrevard.org) or contact Emly at 321-537-4561 or [lemly@bacbrevard.com](mailto:lemly@bacbrevard.com).

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