



Stephanie Zollshan / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Jackson Whalan performs a hip-hop song titled 'Catapillar' as ASL interpreter Trudy Gilbert signs alongside him during the CATA 20th anniversary performance in Lenox on Sunday.

## CATA holds anniversary gala

### CATA from B1

serves 600 people with developmental, cognitive and emotional disabilities in the Berkshires and New York's Columbia County.

"I feel the pure joy of the audience and self-confidence of our artists," Newman said after enjoying the performances. "Even if before they might be tentatively nervous, what happens is they really share with the audience their joy."

There was a large crowd that clapped and cheered as a dance group performed the can-can and shimmied on stage. Others dressed in Shakespearean garb in an educational piece about the Bard.

Newman said it was important "to understand the value of honoring every human being for their ability and talent."

Lenox resident Nora Matthews, 10, was one of the many who enjoyed herself.

"I felt like it was really good

and a really way to communicate a message, no matter if you have a disability or something like that you can still make art and do what you want to do and have a lot of fun," Matthews said.

After 11 years of dancing, Millonzi said she's been able to avoid the jitters and enjoy the spotlight.

"I was a little nervous at first but now I am starting to feel more calm and relaxed," she said.

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