



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GRAND ISLAND** – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. presented the 14th Annual Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search two day competition at Fonner Park, the Semi-Finals on Saturday, September 1st and the Finals on Sunday, September 2nd. Since its beginning in 1993, the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search has grown to be the biggest talent search in Nebraska, featuring singers, dancers, instrumentalists, variety acts and songwriters. Thirty acts from across Nebraska competed on the Bristol Windows Stage in the Semi-Finals. All Semi-Finalist Contestants received a Galaxy of Stars® Medal. Songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs and the winners of the Galaxy of Stars® Battle of the Bands, the Church House Blues Band, at the Lancaster County Carnival & Talent Search in Lincoln showcased during the Finals. Fifteen of the Highest Scoring performances in the Talent Search advanced to the Finals with contestants competing for over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash, trophies & a Nashville Recording Package.

**FINALISTS** - Fifteen acts, listed in random order, advanced to the Finals:

**COMETS (12 & Under) -TAPS Honors Dance Team: Kealy Ranslem & Layce Brandt, Norfolk; Taelyn Baumert, Dance, Clarkson; Trinity McMillan, Crete, & Adysen Zeimann, Pleasant Dale, Group Dance; Daelyn Rayne Mues, Vocal, Culbertson; Raegan Roebuck, Dance, Genoa.**

**SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18) - TAPS Honor Dance Team: Marlee Weidner & Isaac Weander, Norfolk; A Blonde, A Redhead & A Ukulele: Grace Frederick & Jessie Freeland, Group Vocal, Benkelman; Reagan Gausman, Vocal, Columbus; Sarah Koca, Vocal, Dorchester; Sydnie Allen, Vocal, Imperial,**

**NOVAS (19 & Over) - Sophie & Evan: Sophie Keplinger & Evan Johnson, Group Vocal/Guitar, Omaha; Tazalea Scott, Vocal, Westerville; Jared Ehrke, Lincoln, & David Ehrke, Alma,, Group Vocal; Regan Kolbo, Dance, Crete; Kaylyn Sahs, Vocal/Guitar, Papillion.**

## NEBRASKA STATE FAIR AWARDS AND WINNERS

Cash Awards were presented by Vision Productions, Inc. and the Nebraska State Fair. Trophies and Medals were presented by Awards Plus, Kelly Kava & Michelle Mariani, Grand Island, and Vision Productions, Inc. Nashville Recording Session Packages for Overall Vocalist and 1st Place Songwriter were presented by Mark Allen, Benchmark Productions, Nashville, and Vision Productions, Inc.

## Special Recognition Awards:

Presented by Vision Productions, Inc.

**Dream, Believe & Achieve Award - “A True Inspiration”** was presented to **Mary Joyce Adams of Nashville, TN** in recognition of 12 years of service, dedication and commitment to the Galaxy of Stars® Program. Encouraging others to “Dream” big, “Believe in their God Given talents and to strive to “Achieve” their highest goals and aspirations.

**Above and Beyond Award** was presented to **Chelsea Arnold, currently residing in Branson, MO** for going “Above and Beyond” to support and encourage Nebraska talent.

## Overall Awards:

- MEGA STAR** (Highest Scoring Contestant Overall)  
\$1,000.00 Cash & Trophy: **Kaylyn Sahs**, Vocal/Guitar, *Papillion*
- SHINING STAR** (Highest Scoring Contestant(s) in Star Quality, “The Shine Factor”)  
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Kaylyn Sahs**, Vocal/Guitar, *Papillion*
- SUPERSTAR** (Voted Overall Best Performance by All Contestants)  
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Regan Kolbo**, Dance, *Crete*
- PEOPLES CHOICE** (Voted Overall Best Performance by Audience)  
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Trinity McMillan, Crete, & Adysen Ziemann,**  
*Pleasant Dale, Comets, Group Dance*

## Age Division Awards:

### COMETS (12 & Under)

- 1st Place** \$250.00 Cash & Trophy: **Raegan Roebuck**, Dance, *Genoa*
- 2nd Place** \$150.00 Cash & Trophy: **Trinity McMillan, Crete, & Adysen Zeimann,**  
*Pleasant Dale, Group Dance*
- 3rd Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Taelyn Baumert**, Dance, *Clarkson*

### SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):

- 1st Place** \$250.00 Cash & Trophy: **Reagan Gausman**, Vocal, *Columbus*
- 2nd Place** \$150.00 Cash & Trophy: **TAPS Honor Dance Team: Marlee Weidner**  
& **Isaac Weander, Norfolk**
- 3rd Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **A Blonde, A Redhead & A Ukulele: Grace Frederick**  
& **Jessie Freeland, Group Vocal, Benkelman**

### NOVAS (19 & Over)

- 1st Place** \$250.00 Cash & Trophy: **Kaylyn Sahs**, Vocal/Guitar, *Papillion*
- 2nd Place** \$150.00 Cash & Trophy: **Jared Ehrke, Lincoln, & David Ehrke, Alma,**, Group Vocal
- 3rd Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Sophie & Evan: Sophie Keplinger & Evan Johnson,**  
Group Vocal/Guitar, *Omaha*

## Overall Vocalist (Highest Scoring Individual or Group – All Age Divisions)

Presented by Mark Allen, Benchmark Productions, Inc., Nashville, & Vision Productions, Inc.

Nashville Recording Package (\$4,500.00 Value) - Includes Production Consultation, National Song Search, Studio Musicians, Background Singers, Produced, Mixed and Mastered.

**Kaylyn Sahs**, Vocal/Guitar, *Papillion*

**GALAXY OF STARS® SONGWRITING CONTEST:** The Top Three Songwriters of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest were presented their awards at the Finals Awards Ceremony, and Songwriters of the Top Ten Original Songs were acknowledged on stage during the Awards Ceremony. All Songwriters of the Top Eight Original Songs received a Galaxy of Stars® Medal.

### **Top Three Original Song Awards:**

**1st Place:** \$250.00 Cash & Trophy; Nashville Recording Session (\$3,500 Value) presented by Mark Allen Productions, Nashville, & Vision Productions, Inc. - Includes Song Critique, Production Consultation, Studio Musicians and Vocalists, Produced, Mixed and Mastered.

**“To God Be The Glory”** Ryan Martinez, *La Vista*

**2nd Place:** \$150.00 Cash & Trophy

**“First In”** Kaylyn Sahs & Keith Sahs, *Papillion*, and Tim Bezy, *Bellevue*

**3rd Place:** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy

**“I Am Not Ashamed”** Robert DeBusk, *Eagle*

**Terri Krolkowski made a surprise presentation honoring Wynne Adams-Nashville & Trish Linscott-Omaha as Admirals In The Great Navy Of The State of Nebraska-Commissioned by Governor Pete Ricketts.**

**NEW THIS YEAR! GALAXY OF STARS® BATTLE OF THE BANDS: Lancaster County Carnival & Talent Festival - Stage of Stars.** Open to All Ages & All Genres. \$500.00 Cash Prizes. First Place Band received a \$4000.00 Nashville Recording Package and showcased at the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on September 2nd. **1st Place-\$250.00 Cash & Trophy: Church House Blues Band - Lincoln, Suzy Carter, John Dietrich, Danny Dakan, Dan Nickel, Mark Schwarting; 2nd Place-\$150.00 Cash & Trophy: Scriptive - Columbus, Dolan Delano, Carly Cremers, Lance Barcel, Keagan Reeves; 3rd Place-\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: The Kings Company - Bellevue, Evan Kieser, Nick Townsend, Andrew Talbot; 4th Place-\$50.00 Cash: The Annie Gaston Band - Fremont, Annie Gaston, Michael Placzek, Betsy Maschmann.** Details at [galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com](http://galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com)

### **GALAXY OF STARS® SPECTACULAR TRIBUTE CONCERT FOR VETERANS**

Wynne Vanessa Adams of Vision Productions, Inc. and the Nebraska State Fair presented the “American Strong” Veterans Tribute Concert honoring the U.S Armed Forces, Veterans and their families Monday, September 3rd from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM on the Bristol Windows Stage, featuring 2013 Mega Star & Navy Veteran Justin Kane-Scottsbluff, 2018 Mega Star Kaylyn Sahs-Papillion, 2017 Mega Star-Carly Cremers-Hastings, 2014 Mega Star Jesse Hake-Kearney, “Tap This” Cloggers-Lincoln, Melissa McBride-Omaha and special guest Ginger ten Bensel from McCook.

**NEBRASKA STATE FAIR VETERANS DAY PROGRAM** was held Monday, September 3rd at 1:30 PM at the Heartland Event Center. Featured entertainer was 2013 Mega Star and Navy Veteran Justin Kane from Scottsbluff.

To schedule an interview or request photos contact: Wynne Adams at 615-495-7375.

For additional information go to the official Galaxy of Stars® website at [www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com](http://www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com) and visit the Nebraska State Fair at [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org).