



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 9, 2016

Contact: Chelsey Jungck, 308-382-1620 [cjungck@statefair.org](mailto:cjungck@statefair.org)

Wynne Adams, 615-495-7375 [galaxyofstars@comcast.net](mailto:galaxyofstars@comcast.net)

**GRAND ISLAND** – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. presented the 12th Annual Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search two day competition at Fonner Park, the Semi-Finals on Saturday, September 3rd and the Finals on Sunday, September 4th. 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 performances by thirty-two contestants from twenty-five towns 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 showcased their songs during the Finals. Nineteen of the Highest Scoring performances in the Talent Search advanced to the Finals with contestants competing for over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash, recording sessions and trophies.

## FINALISTS

Nineteen acts advanced to the Finals. Listed in no ranking order the Top Five Highest Scoring Performances in each Age Division and four of the next highest scoring performances across all three age divisions competed on the Bristol Windows Stage:

**COMETS** - **Rachel Young**, Vocal, *North Platte*; **Emma Nguyen**, Piano, *Lincoln*; **Bailey Rogers**, Vocal, *Minden*; **Ella Jaixen**, Vocal, *Loup City*; **Stella Klingelhofer**, Vocal, *Amherst*.

**SHOOTING STARS** - **Morayah Cupp**, Vocal, *Champion*; **Off Season Duo-Phalen Sanford & Aubrey Fredrick**, Group Vocal, *Benkelman*; **Sarah Koca**, Vocal, *Lincoln*; **Emery Wenz**, Dance, *Lincoln*; **Taylor Smith**, Vocal, *Kearney*; **Natalie Raimondo & Jessie Nelson**, Vocal Group, *Columbus*.

**NOVAS** - **Becky Jones & Chloe Weller**, Group Vocal, *Kearney*; **Christopher “Dozer” Lewis**, Vocal, *McCook*; **Ken Hoge**, Vocal, *Hubbell*; **DeAndreae Clayton**, Vocal, *Grand Island*; **Tazalea Scott**, Vocal/Guitar, *Westerville*; **Becky Jones**, Vocal, *Kearney*; **Mason Harouff**, Vocal, *Culbertson*; **Melissa McBride**, Variety/Baton, *Omaha*.

## 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 Dee Lichtenberger, Laser Art Design, Callaway, and Vision Productions, Inc. Nashville Recording Session Package for Overall Vocalist was presented by Mark Allen, Benchmark Productions, Nashville, & Vision Productions, Inc. 1st and 2nd Place Songwriters Recording Sessions Awards were presented by Steve McCoy, Arapahoe, and Vision Productions, Inc. 1st Place Songwriter was also awarded a Skype Consultation and Song Critique presented by Kirsti Manna, #1 Billboard Hit Writer, Nashville.

**Above and Beyond Award** was presented to **Jesse Stevens-103.5 Coyote Country Music Showdown - McCook**, for going "Above and Beyond" to support and encourage Nebraska talent.

**"Dream, Believe, and Achieve" Award** was presented to **Fran Wilson - Kearney**, for exemplifying the vision of the Galaxy of Stars®: Dare to "DREAM" big, "BELIEVE" in your God given talents and strive to "ACHIEVE" your highest goals and aspirations.

### Overall Awards:

**MEGA STAR** (Highest Scoring Contestant Overall)  
\$1,000.00 Cash & Trophy: **DeAundrae Clayton**, Nova, Vocal, *Grand Island*

**SHINING STAR** (Highest Scoring Contestant(s) in Star Quality, "The Shine Factor")  
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **DeAundrae Clayton**, Nova, Vocal, *Grand Island*

**SUPERSTAR** (Voted Overall Best Performance by All Contestants)  
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **DeAundrae Clayton**, Nova, Vocal, *Grand Island*

**PEOPLES CHOICE** (Voted Overall Best Performance by Audience)  
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Mason Harouff**, Vocal, *Culbertson*

### Age Division Awards:

#### COMETS (12 & Under)

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** \$250.00 Cash & Trophy: **Bailey Rogers**, Vocal, *Minden*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** \$150.00 Cash & Trophy: **Rachel Young**, Vocal, *North Platte*  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Emma Nguyen**, Piano, *Lincoln*

#### SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** \$250.00 Cash & Trophy: **Sarah Koca**, Vocal, *Lincoln*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** \$150.00 Cash & Trophy: **Emery Wenz**, Dance, *Lincoln*  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Off Season Duo-Phalen Sanford & Aubrey Fredrick**,  
Group Vocal, *Benkelman*

#### NOVAS (19 & Over)

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** \$250.00 Cash & Trophy: **DeAundrae Clayton**, Vocal, *Grand Island*  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** \$150.00 Cash & Trophy: **Becky Jones**, Vocal, *Kearney*  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Melissa McBride**, Variety/Baton, *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 \$4,000.00 Value - Includes Production Consultation, National Song Search, Studio Musicians, Background Singers, Produced, Mixed and Mastered.

**DeAundrae Clayton**, Nova, Vocal, *Grand Island*

**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 Ten Original Songs received a Galaxy of Stars® Medal.

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** \$500.00 Cash and Trophy; 4 Hours/\$600.00 Value Recording Session presented by Steve McCoy, State Farm Agent, Arapahoe, & Vision Productions, Inc. at Ware House Productions, Inc., Omaha; 1 Hour/\$200.00 Value Skype Consultation and \$50.00 Value Song Critique presented by Kirsti Manna, #1 Billboard Hit Writer, Nashville.

**“Where Is Jesus”** **Riley Rambali, *McCook***

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** \$150.00 Cash and Trophy; 2 Hours/\$300.00 Value Recording Session presented by Steve McCoy, State Farm Agent, Arapahoe, and Vision Productions, Inc. at Ware House Productions, Inc., Omaha.

**“My Anniversary”** **Don Mittan, *Lincoln***

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy.

**“Family”** **Ryan Martinez, *Grand Island***

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

Wynne Vanessa Adams of Vision Productions, Inc. and the Nebraska State Fair presented a Tribute Concert, “Together We Are American Strong” for the Veterans, U.S Military and Their Families Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 10:A.M. – 12:00 P.M. on the Bristol Windows Stage featuring Past Mega Stars and Finalists of the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search including **2015 Mega Stars Major Minor 3-Shelby Stevens, Riley & Tyler Rambali, *McCook*; 2014 Mega Star Jesse Hake, *Kearney*; 2013 Mega Star Justin Kane, *Scottsbluff*; 2010 Mega Star Amanda Winter, *Nashville*; 2009 Mega Star Don Mittan, *Lincoln*; 2008 Mega Star Jessy Karr, *Grand Island*; and Galaxy Finalists: Melissa McBride, *Omaha*; B.J. Montague, *Lincoln*; Stacy Pospisol, *Lincoln*; and Christopher “Dozer” Lewis, *McCook*.**

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).

###