



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Chelsey Jungck, 308-382-1620 cjungck@statefair.org

Wynne Adams, 615-495-7375 galaxyofstars@comcast.net

GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce the winners of the 2016 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Video Contest and winners of local Participating Partner Talent Searches who have qualified to advance to the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, September 3rd from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Contestants compete live on the Bristol Windows Stage at Fonner Park in Grand Island in Three Age Divisions, Comets, Shooting Stars and Novas. The Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals & Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 4th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash, trophies will be presented at the Awards Ceremony following the Finals competition. Overall Vocalist will receive a Nashville Recording Package

2016 GALAXY OF STARS® Talent Search Contestants Qualified to Advance to the Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair:

Highest Scoring Video Contestants Advancing to Semi-Finals:

COMETS (12 & Under): Rachel Young, Vocal, *North Platte*; Chloe Weller, Vocal, *Kearney*; Bailey Rogers, Vocal, *Minden*.

SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18): Emery Wenz, Dance, *Lincoln*; Anastasia Zinnecker, Vocal, *Martell*; Audrey Edris, Vocal/Piano, *Papillion*; Sheyenne Weaver, Vocal, *Alliance*; Morayah Cupp, Vocal, *Champion*; Hanna Marshall, Vocal/Guitar, *Mullen*.

NOVAS (19 & Over): Becky Jones, Vocal, *Kearney*; Ryan Martinez, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Melissa McBride, Variety/Baton, *Omaha*; Christopher “Dozer” Lewis, Vocal, *McCook*; Becky Jones & Chloe Weller, Group Vocal, *Kearney*.

Partner Talent Search Winners Advancing to Semi-Finals:

Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search: Sara Koca, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Hallam*; Tayce Bleich, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Battle Creek*; Hunter Nathan, Nova, Vocal/Guitar, *Howells*. **Saline County Fair Talent Search - Crete:** Emma Nguyen, Comet, Piano, *Lincoln*; Autumn Wissenberg, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Crete*; Ken Hoge, Nova, Vocal, *Hubbell*. **105.3 Coyote Country Music Showdown - McCook:** Stella Klingelhofer, Comet, Vocal, *Amherst*; Phalen Sanford & Aubrey Frederick, Shooting Stars, Group Vocal, *Benkelman*; Mason Harouff, Nova, Vocal, *Culbertson*.

There is still an opportunity to qualify for the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals: Area talent can enter these upcoming Partner Talent Searches: **Sandhills Talent Search - Mullen August 6th, Kool Dreams Star Search - Hastings August 13th, High Plains Radio Talent Search - Imperial August 18th, and Columbus Days Talent Search August 20th.** Visit the Galaxy of Stars® website for details.

SONGWRITING CONTEST: **Top Three Original Songs of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in random order:** “Where Is Jesus,” **Riley Rambali**, *McCook*; “Family,” **Ryan Martinez**, *Grand Island*; “My Anniversary,” **Don Mittan**, *Lincoln*. **Songwriters having the Fourth to Tenth Highest Scoring Original Songs, in random order:** “Go Ask Your Mother,” **Mark Dunning**, *Lincoln*; “Paul’s Song,” **Lois Rood**, *Lincoln*; “A New Day,” **Amanda Bazil**, *Lincoln*; “Who I Am,” **Ryan Martinez**, *Grand Island*; “We Are America,” **Lois Rood**, *Lincoln*; “Why Shouldn’t I,” **Kyle Hoyt**, *Mullen*; “Talking To The Worm,” **Don Mittan**, *Lincoln*.

Songwriters of the Top Three Highest Scoring Original Songs will have an opportunity to showcase their songs on Sunday, September 4th at the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on the Bristol Windows Stage from 6:00 - 9:00 PM at Fonner Park in Grand Island. Songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs will be presented with prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions at Ware House Productions in Omaha. Medals will be presented to songwriters of the Top Ten Original Songs.

The 2016 Nebraska State Fair opens August 26th and will run through Labor Day, September 5th. Visit www.statefair.org and www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com for more information.

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