



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 30, 2018

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 2018 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Preliminary 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 1st from 4:00 - 7:00 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 2nd from 5:00 – 8:00 PM. Over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash and trophies will be presented at the Awards Ceremony following the Finals competition. Overall Vocalist will receive a \$4500.00 Nashville Recording Package.

2018 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): Emma Vavra, Vocal, *Amherst*; Jadyn Andersen, Vocal, *Mullen*; TAPS Honors Dance Team: Kealy Ranslem & Layce Brandt, *Norfolk*.

SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18): Rachel Young, Vocal, *North Platte*; Hanna Marshall, Vocal/Guitar, *Mullen*; Chloe Weller, Vocal, *Kearney*; Taylor Smith, Vocal, *Kearney*; TAPS Honor Dance Team: Marlee Weidner & Isaac Weander, *Norfolk*, Ana Zinnecker, Vocal, *Martell*.

NOVAS (19 & Over): Sophie & Evan: Sophie Keplinger & Evan Johnson, Group Vocal, *Omaha*, Jessica Owens, Vocal, *Hastings*; Melissa McBride, Variety/Baton, *Omaha*.

2018 Galaxy of Stars® Partner Talent Search Winners Qualified to Advance to Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair

Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search: Teagan Baumert, Comet, Dance, *Clarkson*; Taelyn Baumert, Comet, Dance, *Clarkson*; Steps at Tiffany's Dance Studio: Makenna Held, Mollie Groteluschen & Kerstyn Held, Shooting Stars, *Clarkson*. **Saline County Fair Talent Search - Crete:** Trinity McMillan, *Crete*, & Adysen Zeimann, *Pleasant Dale*, Comets, Group Dance; Sara Koca, *Shooting Star*, Vocal, *Dorchester*. Regan Kolbo, *Nova*, Dance, *Crete*, **105.3 Coyote Country Music Showdown - McCook:** Daelyn Mues, Comet, Vocal, *Culbertson*; Grace Frederick & Jessie Freeland, Shooting Stars, Group Vocal, *Benkelman*; Senja Stephens & Valerie Leising, Novas, Group Vocal, *Arapahoe*.

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: **Lancaster County Talent Search - Lincoln, August 7th & 8th; Chase County Fair Talent Search - Imperial, August 16th, and Columbus Days Talent Search, August 18th.** Visit the Galaxy of Stars® website for details.

Galaxy of Stars® SONGWRITING CONTEST: **Top Three Original Songs of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in random order: “I Am Not Ashamed,” Robert DeBusk, *Eagle*; “To God Be The Glory,” Ryan Martinez, *La Vista*; “First In,” Kaylyn Sahs, Keith Sahs, *Papillion*, & Tim Bezy, *Bellevue*. Songwriters having the Fourth to Eight Highest Scoring Original Songs, in random order: “Taillights Down The Interstate,” Don Mittan, *Lincoln*; “By His Blood” Ryan Martinez, *La Vista*; “You’re His Beautiful,” Shelby Stevens, *McCook*; “Starstruck,” Kaylyn Sahs, *Papillion*; “The Only Way Out,” Don Mittan, *Lincoln*.**

Songwriters of the Top Three Highest Scoring Original Songs will have an opportunity to showcase their songs on Sunday, September 2nd at the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on the Bristol Windows Stage from **5:00 - 8:00 PM** at Fonner Park in Grand Island. Songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs will be presented with prizes, cash, trophies, and the Top Songwriter will receive a \$3500.00 Nashville recording package. Medals will be presented to songwriters of the Top Eight Original Songs.

NEW THIS YEAR! BATTLE OF THE BANDS: August 9th in Lincoln at the Lancaster County Carnival & Talent Festival. Open to All Ages & All Genres. \$500.00 Cash Prizes. First Place Band will receive a \$4000.00 Nashville Recording Package. Details at galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com.

The 2018 Nebraska State Fair opens August 24th and will run through Labor Day, September 3rd. Visit www.statefair.org and www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com for more information.

###