



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 2012 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Video Mail-In Contest and winners of the 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 1:00 – 5:00 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^h, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Over \$5,000.00 in cash, prizes, trophies and recording sessions will be presented at the Awards Ceremony.

2012 GALAXY OF STARS® Talent Search **Highest Scoring Video Contestants Advancing to the Nebraska State Fair Semi-Finals: COMETS (12 & Under):** Morayah Cupp, Vocal, *Champion*; Kathleen Juhl, Vocal, *Shelton*; McKenzie Steiner, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Lexie Jackson, Vocal, *Gering*; Jamie Chen, Piano, *Alliance*; Jessica Vogt, Vocal, *Omaha*; Gracie Correll, Vocal, *Tryon* and Joshua Fernau, Vocal, *Chadron*.

SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18): Katie Goesch, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Kayleah Moravec, Vocal, *Seward*; Carlie Bauer, Vocal, *Minden*; Shelby Stevens, Vocal, *McCook*; Jennelle Worick, Vocal, *North Platte*; Kiana Meradith, Vocal, *Bennington*; Ashton Dugan, Vocal, *Cozad*; Lindi Johnson, Vocal, *McCook* and Taps Honors Dance Team: Connor Kinney, Tori Ronspies, Jessica Emory, Kim Svitak, Melissa Svitak, Jed Shermer, Ryan Johnson, Samantha Emory, Liz Selting, Jill Schindler, Andrea Steffen, Kassidy Steffen, Shianna Oestreich and Therese Lux, *Norfolk & Tilden*; and The Stage Dance Team: Sarah Ryan, Chloe Ryan, Camerin Burtle, Jessica Bowen, Jessica Nichols and Zoe Hipp, *North Platte*.

NOVAS (19 & Over): Bobby O'Dell, Vocal, *Elkhorn*; Kerri Jo Varley, Vocal, *Waterloo*; Justin Hanshew, Vocal, *Scottsbluff*; Allen Glaser, Vocal, *Kearney*; Bobby O'Dell & Kerri Jo Varley, Group Vocal, *Elkhorn & Waterloo*; Amariah Hodgen, Dance, *North Platte*; Alex Fegley & Justin Slafter, Group Vocal, *Grand Island & Omaha*; Michael Alloway, Vocal, *Kenesaw*; Jessica Swerczek, Vocal, *Lincoln* and TAPS Honors Dance Team: Emily Burroughs, Connor Kinney, Tori Ronspies, Jessica Emory and Kim Svita, *Norfolk*.

Winners from Participating Partner Talent Searches: Crete Lions Club: Stacy Pospisil, Nova, Dance, *Hallam*; **Starburst Talent Search, Hebron:** Silvia Galvan, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Hebron*; Ron Grimes Nova, Vocal, *Central City* and Taylor Dirks, Nova, Vocal, *Hebron*; **Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search:** Maria Connealy, Comet, Variety, *Bellevue*; Hailey Coufal, Vocal, *Howells* and Leigh Q125 Barbershop Octet, *Leigh*; and **105.3 Coyote Country Music Showdown:** Johnny Ray Scott, Nova, Vocal, *McCook*. 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, the **Eustis Fair & Corn Show Talent Search**, August 3rd, and the **Columbus Days Talent Show**, August 18th. Visit the Galaxy of Stars® website for details.

SONGWRITING CONTEST: Top Five Original Songs of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in no ranking order: “Stepping Stones”- Lynette Hofferber, *Ravenna*; “Mr Shy Guy”- Royce Swain, *Omaha*; “Husker Football Uniform”- Robert DeBusk, *Eagle*; “I Like You A Little”- Dale Doerneman, *Columbus*; and “What Did I Do To Deserve You”- Royce Swain, *Omaha* . **Songwriters of the Sixth to Fifteenth Highest Scoring Original Songs**, in no ranking order: “Miles From Home” - Heidi Dostal, *Omaha*; “Think About You”- Bobby O’Dell, *Elkhorn*; “The Sinking Titanic”- Darlene Zimmerman, *Lexington*; “Small Town”- Tom Mooberry, *Johnson Lake*; “Train Wreck”- Bobby O’Dell, *Elkhorn*; “Lay Me Down Easy”- Lynette Hofferber, *Ravenna*; “Waiting”- Jessica Swerczek, *Lincoln*; “Missing You”- Bobby O’Dell, *Elkhorn*; “Life As It Once Was” - Lynette Hofferber, *Ravenna*; and “You’re Always Near”- Shelby Stevens & Riley Rambali, *McCook*. Songwriters of the Top Five Highest Scoring Original Songs will have an opportunity to showcase their songs on Sunday, Sept. 2nd at the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on the Bristol Windows Stage from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at Fonner Park in Grand Island. Songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs will be presented with cash, trophies and recording sessions. Medals will be presented to all songwriters of the Top Fifteen Original Songs.

The 2012 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.

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