



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce the winners of the 2015 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Video Mail-In Contest and winners of local Participating Partner Talent Searches advancing to the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, September 5th 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 6th from 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions will be presented at the Awards Ceremony following the Finals competition.

2015 GALAXY OF STARS® Talent Search Contestants Advancing to the Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair on September 5th:

Highest Scoring Video Contestants Advancing to Semi-Finals:

**COMETS (12 & Under):** **Chloe Blumanthal**, Vocal, *Alliance*; **Morayah Cupp**, Vocal, *Champion*; **Joshua Fernau**, Vocal, *Chadron*; **Raegan Gellatly**, Vocal, *Doniphan*; **Tayce Bleich**, Vocal, *Battle Creek*; **Chloe Weller**, Vocal, *Kearney*.

**SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):** **Payton Cherry**, Vocal, *Monroe*; **Anastasia Zinnecker**, Vocal, *Martell*; **Shelby Stevens**, Vocal, *McCook*; **Sarah Koca**, Vocal, *Hallam*; **Taylor Smith**, Vocal, *Kearney*.

**NOVAS (19 & Over):** **Ryan Martinez**, Vocal, *Grand Island*; **Carlie Bauer**, Vocal, *Minden*; **Melissa McBride**, Variety/Baton, *Omaha*; **Arielle Kerkman**, Vocal, *Hastings*.

Participating Partner Talent Search Winners Advancing to Semi-Finals:

**Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search:** **Alyssa Gurnsey**, Comet, Variety/Gymnastics, *Clarkson*; **Hunter Nathan**, Shooting Star, Vocal/Guitar, *Howells*; **TAPS Honors Dance Team: Zombies** (**Marlee Weidner**, **Isaac Weander**, **Karly Kalin**, **Emilie James**, **Mariah Hansen**, **Amaya Williams**, **Kiran Walker**, **Ashley Uecker**, **Abby Miller**, **Grace Day**, **Audrey Steffen**, **Raymond Lux**, **Kali Hyde**), Shooting Stars, Group Dance, *Norfolk*; **Saline County Fair Talent Search - Crete:** **Chelsea Arnold**, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Crete*; **Cyle Loupin**, Nova, Vocal/Guitar, *York*; **Adam Crocker**, Nova, Vocal, *Omaha*. **105.3 Coyote Country Music Showdown - McCook:** **Lanie Overton**, Comet, Vocal, *McCook*; **Taylor Dack**, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Paxton*; **Christopher “Dozer” Lewis**, Nova, Vocal, *McCook*. **High Plains Radio Talent Search - Imperial:** **Riley and Tyler Rambali**, **Shelby Stevens**, Novas, Group Vocal, *McCook* and **Columbus Days Talent Search:** **Payton Cherry & Anthony Sprunk**, Shooting Stars, Group Vocal, *Monroe*; **Amanda Aerts**, Shooting Star, Vocal, *David City*; **Eden Broberg**, Comet, Dance, *Columbus*.

**SONGWRITING CONTEST: Top Three Original Songs of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in no ranking order: Audrey Lausterer, “Do You Know When”- *Papillion*; Robert DeBusk, “Another Year Older”- *Eagle*; Mark Lehl, “An Old Flame”- *Lincoln*. Songwriters of the Fourth to Tenth Highest Scoring Original Songs, in no ranking order: Justin Brandl, “Darlin”- *Humphrey*; Danielle Clark, “Take A Chance And Pray”- *Papillion*; Audrey Lausterer, “Take Me Back”- *Papillion*; Karen Jardine, “Fifty Per Cent Off Of Heartbreak”- *Lincoln*; Jacob Sharrer, “Eye To Eye”- *Lincoln*; Riley Rambali, “Prince Is Coming”- *McCook*; Audrey Lausterer, *Papillion*, and Skyler Wittenauer, *Bellevue*, “Rain.”**

Songwriters of the Top Three Highest Scoring Original Songs will showcase their songs on Sunday, September 6th 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. Medals will be presented to songwriters of the Top Ten Original Songs.

**Special performances** during the two day show will include Mega Star winners Jessie Hake 2014 - Grand Island, Justin Kane 2013 - Scottsbluff and Don Mittan 2009 - Beatrice, and past finalists Lindi Johnson -McCook, Katie Edwards - Omaha and Deanna Floe - Scottsbluff.

The 2015 Nebraska State Fair opens August 28th and will run through Labor Day, September 7th. Visit [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org) and [www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com](http://www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com) for more information.

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