



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 advancing to the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, September 1st from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. Thirty Acts from across Nebraska 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 Advancing to the Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair:

Highest Scoring Video Contestants Advancing to Semi-Finals:

COMETS (12 & Under): Emma Vavra, Vocal, *Amherst*; Jadynd 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*, Anastasia Zinnecker, Vocal, *Martell*.

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

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

Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search: Teagan Baumert, Comet, Dance, *Clarkson*; Taelyn Baumert, Comet, Dance, *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 Rayne Mues, Comet, Vocal, *Culbertson*; **A Blonde, A Redhead & A Ukulele:** Grace Frederick & Jessie Freeland, Shooting Stars, Group Vocal, *Benkelman*; **Lancaster County Talent Search - Lincoln, August 7th:** Eli Brown, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Kaylyn Sahs, *Nova*, Vocal/Guitar, *Papillion*; TiLynn Scott, *Nova*, Vocal, *Grand Island*; **August 8th:** Micayla Brown, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Jared Ehrke, *Lincoln*, & David Ehrke, *Alma*, Novas, Group Vocal. **Chase County Fair Talent Search - Imperial:** Sydnie Allen, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Imperial*; Skyler Swanson, Shooting Star, Vocal/Guitar, *Arthur*; Tazalea Scott, *Nova*, Vocal, *Westerville*. **Columbus Days Talent Search:** Raegan Roebuck, Comet, Dance, *Genoa*; Reagan Gausman, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Columbus*; Maria Lopez, *Nova*, Vocal, *Columbus*. 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 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 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! GALAXY OF STARS® BATTLE OF THE BANDS: Lancaster County Carnival & Talent Festival - Stage of Stars. Open to All Ages & All Genres. \$500.00 Cash Prizes. First Place Band received a \$4000.00 Nashville Recording Package and will showcase at the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on September 2nd. **1st Place:** Church House Blues Band - *Lincoln*, Suzy Carter, John Dietrich, Danny Dakan, Dan Nickel, Mark Schwarting; **2nd Place:** Scriptive - *Columbus*, Dolan Delano, Carly Cremers, Lance Barcel, Keagan Reeves; **3rd Place:** The Kings Company - *Bellevue*, Evan Kieser, Nick Townsend, Andrew Talbot; **4th Place:** The Annie Gaston Band - *Fremont*, Annie Gaston, Michael Placzek, Betsy Maschmann. 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.

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