



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Talent from 35 Cities Across Nebraska are Competing in the 2014 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals & the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest!**

**GRAND ISLAND** – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce the winners of the 2014 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Video Mail-In 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, August 30th 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, August 31st, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Over \$9,000.00, prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions will be presented at the Awards Ceremony.

**Thirty-Nine Acts/Forty-Four Contestants Advancing from the Galaxy of Stars® Video Contest & Local Partner Talent Searches will be Performing on the Bristol Windows Stage at the Nebraska State Fair.**

**Highest Scoring Video Contestants Advancing to the Nebraska State Fair Semi-Finals:**  
**COMETS (12 & Under):** Morayah Cupp, Vocal, *Champion*; Kyleigh Adkins, Vocal, *Mitchell*; Reagan Gelatly, Vocal, *Doniphan*; Kate McFarland, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Joslyn Stamp, Variety/Baton, *Plattsmouth*; Hanna Marshall, Vocal, *Mullen*; Kathleen Nguyen, Piano, *Lincoln*.

**SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):** Sydney Fuehrer, Vocal/Guitar, *Marquette*; Sean Lebita, Piano, *Lincoln*; Dana Grape, Vocal, *Albion*; Lexie Socha, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Katherine Plata, Vocal/Ukulele, *Papillion*; Shelby Stevens, Vocal/Piano, *McCook*; Taylor Smith, Vocal, *Kearney*; Conner McConnell, Piano, *Lincoln*.

**NOVAS (19 & Over):** Austin Friesen, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Halle Stephens, Vocal, *Arapahoe*; Seraphine “Bear” Aquilar, Vocal, *St. Libory*; Deborah Wagner, Vocal, *Scottsbluff*; Anita Uldrich, Vocal/Guitar, *Grand Island*; Riley & Taylor Rambali & Shelby Stevens, Group Vocal, *McCook*.

**Winners from Participating Partner Talent Searches: Crete Lions Club:** Chelsea Arnold, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Crete*; McKenzie Steiner, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Verdigre Sound Czech Talent Search: Tayce Bleich, Comet, Vocal, *Battle Creek*; Jesse Hake, Nova, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Jenna Hemenway, Nova, Vocal, *Creighton*; Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search: Mitchell Heavican, Nova, Vocal,

*Rogers*; Grant Kubie, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Blair*; Lucas Gurnsey, Kaleb Papousek, Shane Svoboda, Christopher Konicek & Johnathan Langdon, Shooting Stars, Group Vocal, *Clarkson*; Starburst Talent Search, Hebron: Ron Grimes, Nova, Vocal, *Central City*; Ken Hoge, Nova, Vocal, *Hubbell*; Katie Shonka, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Bellwood*; 105.3 Coyote Country Music Showdown: Rachel Gordine, Shooting Star, Vocal, *McCook*; Taylor Dack, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Paxton*, Adam Wolford, Nova, Vocal/Guitar, *McCook*; Eustis Fair & Corn Show Talent Search: Peyton Zimmerman, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Overton*; Phalen Sanford, Shooting Star, Vocal/Guitar, *Benkelman*; Molly Paxton, Comet, Vocal/Guitar, *Mullen*; Columbus Days Talent Search: Reagan Gausman, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Columbus*; Middle E (Rebecca Feagin, Brielyn Borer, Emily Brewer), Shooting Stars, Group Vocal, *Columbus*; Macyn Norris & Trevor Luckey, Comets, Group Dance, *Columbus*.

**SONGWRITING CONTEST: Top Five Original Songs of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in no ranking order:** "Everything I Need" - Larry Owens, *Lincoln*; "Fighter" - Riley Rambali, *McCook*; "Peaceful Hearts" - Conner McConnell, *Lincoln*; "Beautiful" - Larry Owens, *Lincoln*; "It's Easy Between Us" - Scott Swagger, *Omaha*. **Songwriters of the Sixth to Fifteenth Highest Scoring Original Songs, in no ranking order:** "Believe" - Kristina Brandl, *Lincoln*; "You're His Beautiful" - Shelby Stevens, *McCook*; "Lost" - Riley Rambali, *McCook*; "Summer" - Robert DeBusk, *Eagle*, Rob Barnhardt, *Waverly*, Don Mittan, *Beatrice*; "He Loves Me" - Carlie Bauer, *Minden*; "Nebraska" - Danielle Clark, *La Vista*; "Daddy You Were Right" - Shelby Stevens, *McCook*; "The Guy You Never Became" - Halle Stephens, *Arapahoe*; "Autumn Colors" - Audrey Lausterer, *Papillion*; "Let The Cowboy Dream" - Robert DeBusk, *Eagle*, Tim Kechely, *Lincoln*.

Songwriters of the Top Five Highest Scoring Original Songs will have an opportunity to showcase their songs on Sunday, August 31st 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 prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions. Medals will be presented to all songwriters of the Top Fifteen Original Songs.

The 2014 Nebraska State Fair opens August 22nd and will run through Labor Day, September 1st. Visit [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org) and [www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com](http://www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com) for more information.

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