



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** August 7, 2013

**Contact:** Chelsey Jungck, 308-382-1620 [cjungck@statefair.org](mailto:cjungck@statefair.org)

Wynne Adams, 615-495-7375 [galaxyofstars@comcast.net](mailto:galaxyofstars@comcast.net)

**GRAND ISLAND** – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce the winners of the 2013 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 31st 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 1st, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Over \$9,000.00, prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions will be presented at the Awards Ceremony.

2013 GALAXY OF STARS® Talent Search **Highest Scoring Video Contestants Advancing to the Nebraska State Fair Semi-Finals: COMETS (12 & Under):** Raegan Gellatly, Vocal, *Doniphan*; Morayah Cupp, Vocal, *Champion*; McKenzie Steiner, Vocal, *Lincoln*; MaKenzie Mellem, Vocal/Guitar, *Crofton*; Lexie Jackson, Vocal, *Gering*; and Joshua Fernau, Vocal, *Chadron*.

**SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):** Carlie Bauer, Vocal/Guitar, *Minden*; Alex Hollmann, Vocal/Piano, *Verdigre*; Dana Grape, Vocal, *Albion*; Arianna Gutierrez, Vocal, *McCook*; Merrick Alexander, Vocal, *Plainview*; Jennelle Worick, Vocal, *North Platte*; Kennedy Berreckman, Vocal, *Cozad*, and The Stage Dance Team (*Zoe Hipp, Sarah Ryan, Chloe Ryan, Stephen Ryan, Camerin Burtle, Jessie Nichols, Whitney Miller, Natalie Miller and Abri Contos*).

**NOVAS (19 & Over):** Justin Hanshew, Vocal, *Scottsbluff*; Michael Alloway, Vocal, *Kenesaw*; April Jackson, Vocal, *Omaha*; Bryan Kenner, Vocal, *Stapleton*; Ron Grimes, Vocal, *Central City*; Johnna Jane Thayer, Vocal, *North Platte*; Johnny Ray Scott, Vocal, *McCook*; Arielle Kerkman, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Debby Wagner, Vocal, *Scottsbluff*; and Organic Crew Dance (*Carlos Tapia and Karina Alvarez*), *Lexington*.

**Winners from Participating Partner Talent Searches: Crete Lions Club:** Sara Koca, Comet, Vocal *Dorchester*; **Starburst Talent Search, Hebron:** Landon Schmitt, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Hebron*; Ken Hoge, Nova, Vocal, *Hubbell*; Taylor Dirks, Nova, Vocal, *Bruning*; **Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search:** Feet of Fury-Capital City Dance Shack, Comets, *Lincoln*; Katie Shonka, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Bellwood*; Steps at Tiffany's Dance Team, Novas, *Leigh*; **105.3 Coyote Country Music Showdown:** Stacy Armijo, Nova, Vocal, *McCook*; Melody Jones & Alex Roe, Novas, Group Vocal, *McCook*; Pet Peeve - Charles Clapp & Paul Braves, Group Vocal, *McCook*; **Lancaster County Super Fair, Lincoln:** Chelsea Arnold, Shooting Star, Vocal, *Crete*; Amber Rutt, Nova, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Austin Edwards, Nova, Vocal/Guitar, *Lincoln*. 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 10th, and the Columbus Days Talent Search, August 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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:** Acoustic Peace” - Larry Owens, *Lincoln*; “Rise Above And Beyond” - Shelby Stevens, *McCook*; “Haunted Highway” - Don Mittan, *Beatrice*; “Fire N’ Ice”- Jesse Hake, *Grand Island*; “Jesus In My Pocket” - Larry Owens, *Lincoln*. **“Songwriters of the Sixth to Fifteenth Highest Scoring Original Songs, in no ranking order:** “Bottomed Out” - Justin Brandl, *Humphrey*; “Want You Back”- MaKenzie Mellem, *Crofton*; “She’s My Best Friend” - Robert DeBusk, *Eagle*; “Face” - Riley Rambali, *McCook*; “Suppose” - Rob Barnhardt, *Waverly*; “Hold Me Together” - Shelby Stevens, *McCook*; “Around Here”  
- Larry Owens, *Lincoln*; “Good Man” - Justin Brandl, *Humphrey*; “You And Me” - MaKenzie Mellem, *Crofton*; “Your Mighty Hand” - Shelby Stevens and Riley Rambali, *McCook*.

Songwriters of the Top Five Highest Scoring Original Songs will have an opportunity to showcase their songs on Sunday, Sept. 1st 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 2013 Nebraska State Fair opens August 23rd and will run through Labor Day, September 2nd. Visit [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org) and [www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com](http://www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com) for more information.

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