



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce the 2011 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Video Mail-In Entries qualified to advance to the Nebraska State Fair Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals on Saturday, September 3rd, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM, to 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 4th, from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Over \$5,000.00 cash, prizes, trophies and recording sessions will be awarded.

2011 GALAXY OF STARS® Talent Search **Highest Scoring Video Contestants Advancing** to the Nebraska State Fair Semi-Finals: **COMETS (12 & Under):** Josh Fernau, *Chadron*; McKenzie Steiner, *Lincoln*; Jessica Vogt, *Omaha*; Madison Kramer, *Hyannis*; Morayah Cupp, *Champion*; Kathleen Juhl, *Shelton*; Logan Becher & Quintessence Indra (Dance), *Leigh*. **SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):** Craig Meier, *Deshler*; Carlie Bauer, *Minden*; Ashton Dugan, *Cozad*; Karly Nitsch, *Boelus*; Kate Duncan, *Morrill*; Katie Goesch, *Grand Island*; Natalie Plata, *Papillion*; Bailey Bond, *Clarkson*; Jennelle Worick, *North Platte*; Halle Stephens, *Arapahoe*; TAPS Honors Dance Team (Tori Ronspies, Dani Stappert, Jaycee Bradley, Sam Emory, Joell Heng, Jonah Heng, Abby Hupp, Melissa Svitak, Kim Svitak, Andrea Steffen, *Norfolk*; Jed Shermer, Ryan Johnson, *Tilden*). **NOVAS (19 & Over):** Kaylie Wilson, *Omaha*; Justin Hanshew, *Scottsbluff*; Risa Mann, *Burwell*; Ron Grimes, *Central City*; Keith Long, *Oxford*; DaNae Kramer, *Hyannis*; Molly Hutchinson, *Grant*; Alex Fegley & Justin Slafter (Duet), *Grand Island*; Three to Thee (Angela Gill, *Juniata*; Jennifer Bronson, *Hastings*; Ann Auten, *Blue Hill*).

Winners from Participating Partner Nebraska Talent Shows advancing to the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair will be announced as they become available.

SONGWRITING CONTEST: The **Top Three Original Songs** of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in no ranking order: “Pray Me Home”, Scott Swagger, *Malcolm*, & Robyn Rae Johnston, *Maywood*; “Today”, Bailey Bond, *Clarkson*; “Ride Cowboy Ride”, Tom Mooberry, *Johnson Lake*. **Four to Fifteen of the Highest Scoring Original Songs**, in no ranking order: “One More Time”, Rickie Hinrichsen, *DuBois*; “Sometimes”, Alexa Whipple, *Arapahoe*; “I Never Saw That Coming”, Rae Welch, *David City*; “My Way Home”, Justin Hanshew, *Scottsbluff*; “Don’t Make Me Wait Too Long”, Royce Swain, *Omaha*; “Wait”, Halle Stephens, *Arapahoe*; “I’m Here”, Alexa Whipple, *Arapahoe*; “Pickin’ Me Up - Puttin’ Me Down”, Ronald Grimes, *Central City*; “I Never Asked For That”, Rae Welch, *David City*; “Falling”, Bailey Bond, *Clarkson*; “Deep Water”, Royce Swain, *Omaha*; “Quit Honky Tonkin’ Around”, Tom Mooberry, *Johnson Lake*.

Songwriters of the **Top Three Highest Scoring Original Songs** will have an opportunity to showcase their songs on Sunday, September 4th, at the Nebraska State Fair Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on the Bristol Windows Stage from 1:00 - 5:00 PM at Fonner Park in Grand Island. Following the Finals competition, the ranking order of the Top Fifteen Original Songs will be announced on stage at the Awards Ceremony and songwriters will be presented with cash, trophies, prizes and recording sessions. **All of the Top Sixteen Songwriters** will be presented with medals. Songwriters not listed above are: Don Mittan, *Beatrice*; Matthew Chandler-Smith, *Grant*; Robert DeBusk, *Eagle*; Donna White, *Lexington* and Co-writers Dale Williams, *Columbus*, & Dan Kane, *Wisner*.

Visit www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com, the official website of Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search for more information. The 2011 Nebraska State Fair opens August 27th and will run through Labor Day, September 5th. Visit www.statefair.org for more information about the State Fair.