



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. presented the 11th Annual Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search two day competition at Fonner Park, the Semi-Finals on Saturday, September 5th and the Finals on Sunday, September 6th. Since its beginning in 1993, the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search has grown to be the biggest talent search in Nebraska, featuring singers, dancers, instrumentalists, variety acts and songwriters. Twenty-eight performances by forty-three contestants from twenty-four cities across Nebraska competed on the Bristol Windows Stage in the Semi-Finals. All Semi-Finalist Contestants received a Galaxy of Stars® Medal. Songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs showcased their songs during the Finals. Seventeen of the Highest Scoring performances in the Talent Search advanced to the Finals with contestants competing for over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash, recording sessions and trophies.

FINALISTS

The Top Five Highest Scoring Performances in each Age Division and two of the next highest scoring performances across all three age divisions advanced to the Finals. Competing in the Finals Competition in no ranking order:

COMETS - **Tayce Bleich**, Vocal, *Battle Creek*; **Joshua Fernau**, Vocal, *Chadron*; **Chloe Blumanthal**, Vocal, *Alliance*; **Morayah Cupp**, Vocal, *Champion*; **Alyssa Gurnsey**, Variety/Gymnastics, *Clarkson*.

SHOOTING STARS - **Sara Koca**, Vocal, *Hallam*; **Taylor Smith**, Vocal, *Kearney*; **TAPS Honors Dance Team - Zombies** (**Marlee Weidner**, **Isaac Weander**, **Karly Kalin**, **Emilie James**, **Mariah Hansen**, **Amaya Williams**, **Kiran Walker**, **Abby Miller**, **Grace Day**, **Audrey Steffen**, **Raymond Lux** and **Kali Hyde**) Group Dance, *Norfolk*; **Payton Cherry**, Vocal, *Monroe*; **Anastasia Zinnecker**, Vocal, *Crete*.

NOVAS – **Adam Crocker**, Vocal, *Omaha*; **Ryan Martinez**, Vocal, *Grand Island*; **Riley & Tyler Rambali & Shelby Stevens**, Group Vocal, *McCook*; **Cyle Loupin**, Vocal/Guitar, *York*; **Melissa McBride**, Variety/Baton, *Omaha*; **Carlie Bauer**, Vocal, *Minden*; **Christopher “Dozer” Lewis**, Vocal, *McCook*.

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR AWARDS AND WINNERS

Cash Awards were presented by the Nebraska State Fair, Vision Productions, Inc. and Steve McCoy - State Farm Agent, Arapahoe. Trophies and Medals were presented by Dee Lichtenberger, Laser Art Design, Callaway, and Vision Productions, Inc. and Recording Sessions were presented by Tom Ware House Productions, Inc., Omaha and Vision Productions, Inc.

Above and Beyond Award was presented to **Randy & Mitzi Vavrina, Clarkson Czech Festival Talent Search**, for going “Above and Beyond” to support and encourage Nebraska talent. Tiffany Baumert from Clarkson accepted the award on their behalf.

“Dream, Believe, and Achieve” Award was presented to **Janet Drohman - Crete** for exemplifying the vision of the Galaxy of Stars®: Dare to “DREAM” big, “BELIEVE” in your God given talents and strive to “ACHIEVE” your highest goals and aspirations.

Overall Awards:

MEGA STAR (Highest Scoring Contestant Overall)
\$500.00 Cash & Trophy: **Riley & Tyler Rambali & Shelby Stevens**,
Novas, Group Vocal, *McCook*

SHINING STAR (Highest Scoring Contestant(s) in Star Quality, “The Shine Factor”)
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Riley & Tyler Rambali & Shelby Stevens**,
Novas, Group Vocal, *McCook*

SUPERSTAR (Voted Overall Best Performance by All Contestants)
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Joshua Fernau**, Comet, Vocal, *Chadron*

PEOPLES CHOICE (Voted Overall Best Performance by Audience)
\$100.00 Cash & Trophy: ***TAPS Honors Dance Team - Zombies**, Shooting Stars,
Group Dance, **Marlee Weidner, Isaac Weander, Karly Kalin, Emilie James,**
Mariah Hansen, Amaya Williams, Kiran Walker, Abby Miller, Grace Day,
Audrey Steffen, Raymond Lux and Kali Hyde, *Norfolk*

Age Division Awards:

COMETS (12 & Under)

1st Place \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: **Joshua Fernau**, Vocal, *Chadron*
2nd Place \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Morayah Cupp**, Vocal, *Champion*
3rd Place \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy: **Alyssa Gurnsey**, Variety/Gymnastics, *Clarkson*

SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):

1st Place \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: ***TAPS Honors Dance Team - Zombies**, Group Dance, *Norfolk*
2nd Place \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Anastasia Zinnecker**, Vocal, *Martell*
3rd Place \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy: **Taylor Smith**, Vocal, *Kearney*

NOVAS (19 & Over)

1st Place \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: **Riley & Tyler Rambali & Shelby Stevens**, Group Vocal, *McCook*
2nd Place \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Adam Crocker**, Vocal, *Omaha*
3rd Place \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy: **Melissa McBride**, Variety/Baton, *Omaha*

Overall Vocal or Instrumental Awards

(Highest Scoring Individuals or Groups – All Age Divisions):

Presented by Ware House Productions - Omaha & Vision Productions, Inc.

1st Place Recording Session
4 Hours/\$600.00 Value: **Riley & Tyler Rambali & Shelby Stevens**, Group Vocal, *McCook*

2nd Place Recording Session
2 Hours/\$300.00 Value: **Adam Crocker**, Vocal, *Omaha*

GALAXY OF STARS® SONGWRITING CONTEST: The Top Three Songwriters of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest were presented their awards at the Finals Awards Ceremony, and songwriters of the Top Fifteen Original Songs were acknowledged on stage during the Awards Ceremony.

Top Three Original Song Awards:

1st Place: \$200.00 Cash and Trophy. 4 Hours/\$600.00 Value Recording Session
Presented by Ware House Productions, Omaha, & Vision Productions, Inc.

“Another Year Older” **Robert DeBusk**, *Eagle*

2nd Place: \$100.00 Cash and Trophy. 2 Hours/\$300.00 Value Recording Session
Presented by Ware House Productions, Omaha.

“Do You Know When” **Audrey Lausterer**, *Papillion*

3rd Place: \$50.00 Cash & Trophy.

“An Old Flame” **Mark Lehl**, *Lincoln*

All Songwriters of the Top Ten Original Songs received a Galaxy of Stars® Medal.

For additional information go to the official Galaxy of Stars® website at www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com and visit the Nebraska State Fair at www.statefair.org.

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