



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. presented the 6th Annual GALAXY OF STARS® Talent Search Finals on Saturday, September 4th, at Fonner Park. 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. Over twenty-seven contestants from across Nebraska performed on the Bristol Windows Stage during the Finals Competition to compete for over \$5,000.00 in cash, recording sessions, a dance scholarship and trophies.

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR WINNERS AND AWARDS

Cash Awards were presented by the Nebraska State Fair, Vision Productions, Inc. and Dale Sostad, Phoenix Trucking, Inc., Holdrege; Trophies and Medals were presented by Dee Lichtenberger, Laser Art Design, Callaway, and Vision Productions, Inc.; Recording Sessions were presented by Tom and Terri Ware, Ware House Productions, Inc., Omaha; Dance Scholarship was presented by Jeff and Brandy Smith, Dare 2 Dance, Lincoln.

Above and Beyond Awards were presented to individuals and businesses that have gone “Above and Beyond” to support and encourage Nebraska talent: **John Becker, Copycat Printing, Kearney; Dave Roseberry, Buffalo County Fair, Kearney; Trish Linscott, Omaha; Marci Walker, Kearney and Mary Adams, Nashville.**

“Dream, Believe, and Achieve” Award was presented to **Peggy Malzacher, Oxford**, 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:

Amanda Winter, Nova, Vocal, Hastings

SHINING STAR (Highest Scoring Contestant in Star Quality, “The Shine Factor”) \$100.00 & Trophy:

Amanda Winter, Nova, Vocal, Hastings

SUPERSTAR (Voted Overall Best Performance by All Contestants) \$100.00 & Trophy:

Keith Long, Nova, Vocal, Oxford

Age Division Awards:

COMETS (12 & Under)

1st Place \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: **Mariclaire and Merrilee Prill, Dance, Holdrege**

2nd Place \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Kathleen Juhl, Vocal, Shelton**

3rd Place \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy: **Andrea Hoffman, Dance, Gordon**

SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):

- 1st Place** \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: **Mollie Shevlin and Joel Ostdiek, Vocal, Columbus**
2nd Place \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **James Yu Buettner, Instrumental, Grand Island**
3rd Place \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy. **Katie Marie Goesch, Vocal, Grand Island**

NOVAS (19 & Over)

- 1st Place** \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: **Amanda Winter, Vocal, Hastings**
2nd Place \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: **Kyle J. Corr, Vocal, Hebron**
3rd Place \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy: **Nathan Miller, Vocal, Grand Island**

Overall Vocal or Instrumental Awards (Individual or Group – All Ages):

- 1st Place** Recording Session 4 Hours/\$600.00 Value: **Amanda Winter, Nova, Vocal, Hastings**
2nd Place Recording Session 2 Hours/\$300.00 Value: **Kyle J. Coor, Nova, Vocal, Hebron**

Overall Dance Scholarship Award (Highest Scoring Individual or Group Dance – All Ages):

Individual Dance Scholarship \$270.00 Value: **Tori Wadman, Shooting Stars, Omaha**

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

Songwriter Awards:

1st Place: \$200.00 Cash, 4 Hours/\$600.00 Value Recording Session & Trophy; **2nd Place:** \$100.00 Cash, 2 Hours/\$300.00 Value Recording Session & Trophy, **3rd Place:** \$50.00 Cash & Trophy; **4th and 5th Place:** Honorable Mention & Galaxy of Stars® Medal.

TOP FIVE ORIGINAL SONGS:

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Place | “Enough For Today” | Amy Dunn – Falls City |
| 2nd Place | “Rosie” | Royce Swain - Omaha |
| 3rd Place | “This Mother’s Son” | Rae Welch – David City |
| 4th Place | “Someone’s Waiting” | Rae Welch – David City |
| 5th Place | “I Think That April May” | Royce Swain - Omaha |

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.