



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND ISLAND – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. announce contestants from across Nebraska who have entered the Preliminary Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Video Contest and local Partner Talent Searches and have qualified to advance to the 2017 Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, September 2nd, from 5:30-8:30 PM.

Twenty-eight Acts from twenty-six Nebraska towns will 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 3rd from 5:30-8:30 PM. Over \$9,000.00 in prizes, cash, trophies & recording sessions will be presented at the Awards Ceremony following the Finals competition. Overall Vocalist will receive a Nashville Recording Package. Special entertainment features past Galaxy of Stars® Winners: 2014 Mega Star Jesse Hake, Kearney; 2015 Mega Stars Major Minor 3 - Tyler Rambali, Shelby Stevens & Riley Rambali, McCook; 2016 Mega Star DeAundrea Clayton, Grand Island; Finalist Deanna Floe, Scottsbluff.

### **Preliminary Talent Search Contestants Advancing to the Semi-Finals at the Nebraska State Fair:**

**COMETS (12 & Under):** Bailey Rogers, Vocal, *Minden*; Trinity McMillan, Crete, & Adysen Zeimann, Pleasant Dale, Group Dance; Cooper Hogan, Vocal, *Cortland*; Emerson Swanson, Vocal, *Arapahoe*.

**SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):** Taylor Smith, Vocal, *Kearney*; Ana Zinnecker, Vocal, *Martell*; Morayah Cupp, Vocal, *Champion*; Hanna Marshall, Vocal/Guitar, *Mullen*; Jocelyn Kennicutt, Vocal, *Gothenburg*; Raegan Gellatly, Vocal, *Doniphan*; TAPS Honors Dance Team: Isaac Weander, Marlee Weidner, Kiran Walker, Kali Hyde, *Norfolk*; McKenzie Mellem, Vocal/Guitar, *Crofton*; Steps at Tiffany's Dance Quartet: Quintessence Indra, Kiersten Preister, Derek Gurnsey, Logan Becher, Group Dance, *Clarkson*; Elise Anderson, Vocal/Guitar, *Lincoln*; Alivia Wasenius, Vocal, *Arapahoe*; Liam Barcel & Reagan Gausman, Group Vocal, *Columbus*; Tyler Arnold, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Rachel Young, Vocal, *North Platte*; Savannah Klee & Eden Broberg, Group Dance, *Columbus*; Stella Klingelhofer, Vocal, *Amherst*. Keagan Reeves, Vocal/Guitar, *Columbus*.

**NOVAS (19 & Over):** The Ehrkes, Group Vocal: Jared Ehrke, *Lexington*; Jenna Meyers, *Eagle*; Andrea Ehrke, *Lincoln*; David Ehrke, *Alma*; Peyton Zimmerman, Vocal, *Overton*; Andrea Ehrke, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Erika & Rachel Rupprecht, Group Dance, *Clarkson*; Tazalea Scott, Vocal, *Westerville*; Johnna Jane, Vocal, *Gothenburg*; Carly Cremers, Variety, *Columbus*.

**Songwriting Contest:** Songwriters of the Top Three Highest Scoring Original Songs will showcase their songs on Sunday, September 3rd at the Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search Finals on the Bristol Windows Stage at Fonner Park in Grand Island from 5:30-8:30 PM. **Top Three Original Songs of the Galaxy of Stars® Songwriting Contest, in random order:** "The Lord's Army," Shelby Stevens, *McCook*; "By The Grace Of God, (B.T.G.O.G.)," Ryan Martinez, *La Vista*; "It Helps," Raquel Telfer, *Omaha*. & Sheree Miller, *Lincoln*. The songwriters of the Top Three Original Songs will be presented with prizes, cash, trophies and recording sessions. The Top Songwriter will receive a Nashville Recording Session.

**The Galaxy of Stars® Spectacular "American Strong" Tribute Concert for Veterans, the U.S. Armed Forces & their Families will be presented on the Bristol Windows Stage Monday, September 4th from 10:00 AM-Noon.**

The 2017 Nebraska State Fair opens August 25th and will run through Labor Day, September 4th. Visit [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org) and [www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com](http://www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com) for more information.