



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GRAND ISLAND** – The Nebraska State Fair and Vision Productions, Inc. presented the 7th Annual Galaxy of Stars® Talent Search two day competition at Fonner Park, the Semi-Finals on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Finals on Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. 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. Thirty-seven performances by contestants from thirty-three cities across Nebraska competed on the Bristol Windows Stage in the Semi-Finals. Twenty-three of the Highest Scoring performances advanced to the Finals with contestants competing for over \$5,000.00 in cash, prizes, trophies and recording sessions.

### FINALISTS

The Top Five Highest Scoring Performances in each Age Division and eight of the next highest scoring performances in all three age divisions advanced to the Finals. Competing in the Finals Competition in no ranking order: **COMETS** - Kathleen Juhl, Vocal, *Shelton*; McKenzie Steiner, Vocal, *Lincoln*; Steps at Tiffany's Honors Dancers: Logan Becher & Quintessence Indra, *Leigh*; Morayah Cupp, Vocal, *Champion*; Lindi Johnson, Vocal, *McCook*. **SHOOTING STARS** - Jennelle Worick, Vocal, *North Platte*; Kayleah Moraveck, Vocal, *Seward*; TAPS Honors Dance Team with Amy Arkfeld, Instructor: Melissa Svitak, Kim Svitak, Samantha Emory, Jaycee Bradley & Andrea Steffen, *Norfolk*, Jed Shermer & Ryan Johnson, *Tilden*; Katie Marie Goesch, Vocal, *Grand Island*; Evan Bartels, Vocal/Guitar, *Tobias*; Alyssa Hoeft, Vocal, *Garland*; Sydney Zelazny, Vocal, *Genoa*; Carlie Bauer, Vocal/Guitar, *Minden*. **NOVAS** - Keith Long, Vocal, *Oxford*; DaNae Kramer, Vocal, *Hyannis*; Alex Fegley, *Grand Island*, & Justin Slafter, *Omaha*, Vocal Group; Johnny Ray Scott, Vocal/Guitar, *McCook*; Justin Hanshew, Vocal, *Scottsbluff*; Risa Mann, Vocal, *Burwell*; Three To Thee: Angie Gill, *Juniata*, Jennifer Bronson, *Hastings*, & Ann Auten, *Blue Hill*, Vocal Group; Ron Grimes, Vocal, *Central City*; Kaylie Wilson, Vocal, *Omaha*; April De Los Santos, Vocal, *Hebron*.

### NEBRASKA STATE FAIR AWARDS AND WINNERS

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. and Recording Sessions were presented by Tom and Terri Ware, Ware House Productions, Inc., Omaha.

**Above and Beyond Awards** were presented to individuals, businesses or organizations that have gone "Above and Beyond" to support and encourage Nebraska talent: Ginger ten Bensel, KHAS TV – *Hastings*; Geri Floe - *San Diego, California (formerly Cozad)*; Don Adams, Productions BDA – *Lincoln* and Tina Reed – *Hebron*. **"Dream, Believe, and Achieve" Award** was presented to Dee Lichtenberger, Laser Art Design – *Callaway*, 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: Risa Mann - *Burwell*, Nova, Vocal
- SHINING STAR** (Highest Scoring Contestant in Star Quality, The Shine Factor")  
\$100.00 & Trophy: Risa Mann - *Burwell*, Nova, Vocal
- SUPERSTAR** (Voted Overall Best Performance by All Contestants)  
\$100.00 & Trophy: McKenzie Steiner, *Lincoln*, Comet, Vocal
- PEOPLES CHOICE** (Voted Overall Best Performance by Audience)  
\$100.00 & Trophy: TAPS Honors Dance Team with Amy Arkfeld, Instructor:  
Shooting Stars Melissa Svitak, Kim Svitak, Samantha Emory, Jaycee Bradley and  
Andrea Steffen – *Norfolk*, Jed Shermer and Ryan Johnson – *Tilden*

## Age Division Awards:

### COMETS (12 & Under)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place** \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: Lindi Johnson – *McCook*, Vocal
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: Steps at Tiffany's Honors Dancers:  
Quintessence Indra and Logan Becher – *Leigh*, Dance
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place** \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy: McKenzie Steiner - *Lincoln*, Vocal

### SHOOTING STARS (13 to 18):

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place** \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: TAPS Honors Dance Team with Amy Arkfeld, Instructor:  
Shooting Stars Melissa Svitak, Kim Svitak, Samantha Emory, Jaycee Bradley and Andrea  
Steffen – *Norfolk*, Jed Shermer and Ryan Johnson – *Tilden*, Dance
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: Katie Marie Goesch - *Grand Island*, Vocal
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place** \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy. Kayleah Moravec – *Seward*, Vocal

### NOVAS (19 & Over)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place** \$200.00 Cash & Trophy: Risa Mann – *Burwell*, Vocal
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place** \$100.00 Cash & Trophy: Justin Hanshew – *Scottsbluff*, Vocal
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place** \$ 50.00 Cash & Trophy: Alex Fegley, *Grand Island*, & Justin Slafter, *Omaha*, Vocal

## Overall Vocal Award (Individual or Group – All Age Divisions):

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place** Recording Session 4 Hours/\$600.00 Value: Risa Mann – *Burwell*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place** Recording Session 2 Hours/\$300.00 Value: Justin Hanshew – *Scottsbluff*

**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:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** \$200.00 Cash, 4 Hours/\$600.00 Value Recording Session & Trophy; **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** \$100.00 Cash, 2 Hours/\$300.00 Value Recording Session & Trophy, **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** \$50.00 Cash & Trophy. Seventeen Top Songwriters received a Galaxy of Stars® Medal.

## Top Three Original Songs:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place** “Ride Cowboy Ride” Tom Mooberry, *Johnson Lake*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place** “Pray Me Home” Scott Swagger, *Malcolm*, and Robyn Rae Johnston, *Maywood*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place** “Today” Bailey Bond, *Clarkson*

For additional information go to the official Galaxy of Stars® website at [www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com](http://www.galaxyofstarstalentsearch.com) and visit the Nebraska State Fair at [www.statefair.org](http://www.statefair.org).