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Be a Star Spangled Star! Semifinalists Selected
General Public Can Vote for Their Favorites Starting Tomorrow

Be a Star Spangled Star at the New Mexico State Fair! The State Fair has selected 15 local musical superstars/groups as semifinalists who will now move to Round 2 for a chance to perform at the rodeo/concerts at Tingley Coliseum during various evenings throughout the 2016 fair, which runs September 8 – 18. This one of a kind opportunity gives talented New Mexicans the chance to sing the beloved anthem to an audience of thousands at premier Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association events followed by concerts featuring some of the country's best bands, with one semifinalist being selected by the general public on social media as the "People's Choice" winner.

Dozens of men, women and children from throughout New Mexico tried out during auditions which were held at EXPO New Mexico/State Fairgrounds on July 26. A panel of judges selected the 15 best based on vocal performance and lyrical accuracy. Each audition was recorded and the semi finalists' auditions will be posted on Facebook beginning at 9:00 AM on August 5, 2016, as part of a "People's Choice" component of the contest. The public can view each contestants' video in order to vote for their favorite, with online voting closing on August 20, 2016, at which time the individual or group with the most votes will be selected as an automatic winner, having secured a spot to perform at the New Mexico State Fair Rodeo. The remainder of the six winners will be selected by the same panel of judges that conducted the auditions, and announced on August 22, 2016. An additional two alternates will also be notified at that time.

To vote for their favorite singers or groups as the "People's Choice" selection, beginning on Friday, August 5 at 9:00 AM, fans can log onto <http://woobox.com/3n7zt3> and review each audition. There will be only one vote per person (as measured by IP address) for the entirety of the contest, although voters can select up to three favorites.

The semifinalists who were chosen based on their recent auditions are as follows, in no particular order:

Crystal Martinez, Santa Cruz
Key of 'A' Quartet, Albuquerque
Ashley Chavez, Albuquerque
Jaelea Valencia, Milan
Dominic Vargas, Albuquerque
Maiya Dominguez, Placitas
Morgan Godbolt, Albuquerque
Vanessa Aragon, Los Lunas
Tumbleweeds Duet, Albuquerque
Elicia Rowe, Albuquerque
Gene Corbin, Albuquerque
Raelena Duran, Pecos
Evonne Boldt, Albuquerque
Sarah Serna, Albuquerque
Sasha Butcher, Albuquerque

All final winners and alternates will receive two admission and rodeo/concert tickets to the 2016 New Mexico State Fair. As a bonus, the "People's Choice" winner will receive a one-night stay at one of the New Mexico State Fair's wonderful sponsor hotels.

For more information about the 2016 New Mexico State Fair, log onto www.ExpoNM.com.