



For Immediate Release: August 24, 2015
Contact: Erin Thompson, 505-480-9731

New Mexico State Fair Announces *Be a Star Spangled Star!* Contest Winners

Singers to Perform National Anthem at the 2015 State Fair Rodeo/Concerts

The votes have been cast and counted and the winner of the “People’s Choice” award has been determined and the remaining singers selected for the New Mexico State Fair *Be a Star Spangled Star* Contest. The one of a kind opportunity gives talented New Mexicans the chance to sing the beloved National Anthem at Tingley Coliseum in front of an audience of thousands at premier Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association events followed by concerts featuring some of the country's best bands.

Dozens of men, women and children from throughout New Mexico tried out during auditions which were held at EXPO New Mexico/State Fairgrounds last month. A panel of judges selected the 15 best based on vocal performance and lyrical accuracy, and the People’s Choice winner was selected among them by the general public who cast votes on Facebook between August 8 and August 22. The remaining final seven and two alternates were chosen by the same judges. The winners, in no particular order, are as follows:

- **People’s Choice Winners with 1,166 votes** - Reyes & Angelica Montoya (Duet) – Ribera
- Aaron Howe Trio: Aaron Howe, Trula Howe, Kara Robertson – Albuquerque
- Elicia Rowe – Albuquerque
- Cole Quartet: Mackenzie Cole, Sydney Cole, Abriele Cole, Cameron Cole – Tijeras
- Nicole Miner – Mayhill
- Crystal Prins – Albuquerque
- Theresa Schmitz – Albuquerque
- Valeria Garcia – Albuquerque

- Alternate - Anntionette Booker – Albuquerque
- Alternate - Jaelea Valencia – Milan

All final winners and alternates will receive two admission and rodeo/concert tickets to the 2015 New Mexico State Fair. As a bonus, the "People's Choice" winners will receive a one-night stay at one of the New Mexico State Fair's wonderful sponsor hotels.

“Allowing the public to select a People’s Choice winner was a fun way to get people involved and excited about the upcoming New Mexico State Fair,” said Dan Mourning, state fair general manager. “The participation of folks from throughout New Mexico is what makes our fair special, so we were really pleased to be able to highlight the talented men, women and kids who sang their hearts out for a chance to perform the National Anthem at the state fair,”

The 2015 New Mexico State Fair runs September 10 – 20. For more information about the fair, log onto www.ExpoNM.com.