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SEMI-FINALISTS CHOSEN FOR SEASON 5 OF PORTLAND TEEN IDOL

Teens from 68 local area schools boil down to 22.

Portland, Oregon – May 7, 2011 – The teen program and talent competition “*Portland Teen Idol*” announces the top 22, and official alternates determined at the first round eliminations held May 1st at the Mt. Scott Community Center. A record 68 schools were represented in this year’s competition pool.

Michael Harper and **Geoff Byrd** made guest appearances motivating students and family members to pursue their dreams at the sold out venue. Harper, the former Portland Trailblazer and member of the Commission on Children and Families, represented the “*Grassharper Foundation*” and Byrd, the multiple Grammy Nominee artist and talent, represented his organization “*Kids Record Hits*”.

Judges **Laura Cochran** and **Gordon Avery** had hard decisions as the top 50 vocalist from the auditions had to be cut down. Cochran had worked with Royal Wedding music director **James O’Donnell** in addition to hundreds of concerts, venues and symphonies locally and internationally. Avery, besides being the lead architect and singer of the band “*Gordon Avenue*” that will be touring in India next year, was one of only thirty (30) artists selected for the only artist’ colony “*Contemporary Music Center*” at Martha’s Vineyard in 2006.

Producer and Portland Teen Idol program manager **Dennis Gleason** hosted the event. Gleason has worked on many programs, events and local television creations mounting to over 400 television broadcasts including former Portland Teen Idol events when it was ran by Portland Parks & Recreation and filming the upcoming “*Liberty & Hope Awards Dinner*” featuring Governor **John Kitzhaber** and Trailblazer President **Larry Miller**.

List of the 22 students moving on in alphabetical order are: **Keeley Anderson, Kiersten Bundy, Margaret Driscoll, Briana Hart, Demi Helenius, Lucy Hornschuch, Andy Hunt, Haley Jones, Elizabeth Koonce, Stephanie Landtiser, Felicia House Lopez, Lauren Rice, Katie Rose, Ryan Rothstein, Rebecca Strott, Emily Syphus, Kara Thibault, Haley Ward, Cody Westphal, Alexis Whitney, Jereme Wilkie & Haley Wilson**. If some are not able to perform at the Semi Final round, the three alternates in alphabetical order are: **Mikayla Harris, Carly Seedall & Madison Thompson**.

Next step is the Semi Finals occurring on **Sunday, May 29, 2011** at the prestigious **Tiffany Center** in their *Emerald Ballroom* from 3 – 5 pm. Teens will sing one song for up to two minutes with music accompaniment in front of live judges and at the end of the day, eleven (11) will be selected to represent Portland for the next year.

The Finale in June will determine the winner and leader. Join OMPA Director **Tom McFadden** as a special guest speaker and others to be announced. The Tiffany Center is also sponsoring the event which ensures more money raised from ticket sales will go to one of the now five (5) charities benefiting from this year’s program. **Vice President Biden** used the same location for his venue last year. Tickets go on Sale May 10 at www.PortlandTeenIdol.com.

Portland Teen Idol is an educational and experience driven talent competition and tour designed to help teens ages 13 to 19 attending school learn the entertainment business and develop skills that will ensure greater success in any industry. The television show and live performance program help aspiring students be seen by talent scouts and others to increase the teens’ resource network.

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