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YOUR CHARLOTTE IDOL WINNERS

Charlotte, MI, October 3, 2016—Your Charlotte Performing Arts Center hosted the second annual Charlotte's Idol Competition on Saturday, October 1. Congratulations to your winners:

Your Charlotte Idol for 2016-2017 is Bridgette Gulock from Diamondale. Bridgette is 17 years old, and a senior in high school. She moved the audience with her song selections of Joe De Messina's *Head Carolina, Tails California* in the first round and then followed it up at the piano accompanying herself on an original composition entitled *Never Left Alone*. Bridgette has five siblings and in her spare time loves to sing, write her own music, and sports – especially volleyball. Bridgette's past credits include Fruma Sara in the Homeschool Performing Arts production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, Chorus in The Electric Light Company production of *The Secret Garden*, Jasmine in HSC Thespians production of *Aladdin*, the National Anthem at Comerica Park for the Detroit Tigers and at Aim High for home volleyball games. For the past two years, she has sung for the MSU Fireman's Convention and several times a month she sings and plays for her church and youth group. Currently Bridgette is working on her very own EP recording production.

The first runner up was Morgan Gonzales who brought the audience to her feet in with her Jennifer Holliday's *And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going*. Her first selection on the night was Carrie Underwood's *Last Name*. Morgan graduated from Charlotte High School in 2010. She then received her Bachelor of Arts degree in music theatre from Carthage College in Kenosha Wisconsin. She recently moved back "home" from Nashville Tennessee where she was working as a corrections officer and pursuing music.

The second runner up on the evening was folk singer-songwriter Monte Pride from Okemos, MI. Monte is currently in his third year at MSU. He has been performing locally & around the state for the past four years, at venues like The Robin Theatre, The Loft, The Old Town General Store, Mac's Bar, Ann Arbor Summer Festival, and others. Monte has recorded two EPs since 2014 and plan to release a full album this November! His passion for performing began in high school, when he won first place in "Tri-County's Got Talent" 2014. Since then he's been working to share his songs and stories with listeners young and old, trying to spread the intrinsic and healing qualities of folk music. Monte along with his guitar accomplished just that with his rendition of *Rivers* by The Tallest Man on Earth and his original composition *Tenth of June*.

Bridgette won a contract to open for Joshua Davis, the third place winner on season 7 of *THE VOICE*, and she along with Monte and Morgan are invited to perform on July 13, 2017 at the City of Charlotte's Concerts on the Courthouse Lawn series.

Other contestants were: From Charlotte Haven Hiatt (accompanied by Anna Rudnitsky and Emma Bartley), Emily Whatley, Mikayla Smith, Brandon Michael McCoy, Clayton Jones and Danella Virgo; from Eaton Rapids: Hope Olivia Bishop, Joel Krupa and Deshawn "Shawn" Pauling; and Brooke Leinbaugh from Leslie.



Pictured from left to right: Morgan Gonzales (Runner Up), Bridgette Gulock (Champion) and Monte Pride (Second Runner Up).

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Jeffrey Hayes at 517-541-5691 or email at HayesJ@charlottenet.org