

The 2021 Heartland Idol contest (henceforth referred to as “the contest”) is a Mississippi River Radio production (KEZS, KCGQ, KGKS, KGIR, KZIM/KSIM) in conjunction with our sponsors, including but not limited to: the Pulaski County Fair, the SEMO District Fair and Randy Palen Karaoke & Sound. No purchase is necessary to enter the contest. Contestants must be present at the event to qualify and/or win. ***Contestants may only audition for the contest ONE TIME at either of these locations; the Osage Center on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – OR – Sikeston River Radio on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.***

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Contestants must be 14 years of age or older as of 7/17/2021 and must prove their age prior to auditions with appropriate and valid documentation, including but not limited to a state-issued photo I.D. or a copy of their birth certificate. Contestants under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign their consent form prior to auditions and prior to any subsequent appearances that may occur, including preliminary rounds and the contest’s grand finale at the SEMO District Fair. Sponsors, employees of sponsors, employees of area radio stations and their families (including those owned by Mississippi River Radio), those with a current or prior professional recording contract, and previous Heartland Idol grand prize winners of the “Adult division” of years past are not eligible to compete.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

***Auditions:*** Contestants must perform a cappella (without backing music) for the duration of their audition. Each contestant will be allowed 60 seconds (one minute) to perform, as timed by an attendant, and will be informed when their allotted time has expired. Contestants may sing any song they wish, provided it meets the qualifications described below (“All Events”) as determined by Mississippi River Radio staff.

***IN THE EVENT THERE ARE MULTIPLE AUDITIONS, CONTESTANTS MAY ONLY TRYOUT ONE TIME.***

***Contestants attempting to tryout at more than one location will be exempt from auditioning a second time.***

***Contestants must be available for ALL preliminary dates to remain eligible for the finals. Any contestant unable to attend their assigned preliminary will be disqualified.*** Failure to follow these rules will result in immediate disqualification from the contest’s auditions.

**Preliminaries/Final Round:** Contestants will provide their song selection(s) for performance no later than one (1) calendar week prior to the day of the event. If a contestant chooses to perform with their own karaoke track, it must be devoid of primary lyrical content, and the CD must be delivered to Mississippi River Radio no later than one (1) calendar week prior to the day of the event. All personal CDs will be returned to their owners upon request at the conclusion of the event. If they are not collected by their owners within one (1) calendar week after the event, they will be considered forfeit. Song selections will be governed on a first-come, first-serve basis, and contestants who select a song that has already been previously selected for that event by another contestant must re-select. Contestants are expected to arrive in a timely manner for registration (by the time given from Mississippi River Radio); any contestant who arrives after the contest has begun will be considered disqualified and will not be allowed to perform.

**All events:** Contestants will not be allowed to utilize personal recording or sound equipment on stage during their performance, including but not limited to: personal microphones, musical instruments, etc. Props will only be allowed on-stage with a performer with prior approval from Mississippi River Radio. Contestants are prohibited from consuming alcohol immediately prior to or during any of the contest's events in which they appear. If a contestant appears intoxicated before their turn to appear on-stage, they may be disqualified at Mississippi River Radio's discretion. A contestant's performance cannot include vulgarity or profanity of any type—visual, verbal, or otherwise, at the risk of disqualification. For safety purposes, all contestants must remain on the stage at all times during their performance at any event.

**SELECTION:** *Contestants will be notified AFTER both open auditions have taken place. Semifinalists will be announced Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, on air and posted on the following station websites;*

k103fm.com

939river.com

realrock993.com

kzimksim.com

Contestants selected by the judges at the preliminaries will be notified before the end of the event to move on to the finals. Contestants selected at the preliminaries by audience vote will have their names announced on-air on Mississippi River Radio stations, websites and Facebook pages within 72 hours; they will also be notified via phone call and/or e-mail. All contestants will be contacted via phone call and/or e-mail after selection in each round with vital information concerning the next event (placement, location, instructions, etc.)

**NUMBER OF PERFORMERS:** An act in the contest may consist of up to two (2) performers maximum, both of whom must meet all of the eligibility requirements to enter the contest. Note that only one (1) grand prize will be awarded, despite the number of performers in the winning act. If performing as a duet, both members of the duet must be present and perform together at all scheduled appearances and performances; failure to produce both members of a registered duet will result in disqualification for both.

**JUDGING:** A panel of no less than two (2) and no more than four (4) judges will judge each event in the contest, basing their decisions on a set of criteria including, but not limited to: vocal ability, stage presence, and showmanship. The decisions of the judges are final with no exceptions. Judges may vary at each event. Aside from the contestants chosen by the judges to move on to the final event at the preliminary events, audience voting will determine one (1) additional finalist at each preliminary event. Audience voting ballots will be counted by Mississippi River Radio at the conclusion of the event, and the results will be announced on Mississippi River Radio stations and online within 72 hours maximum. If it is found that contestants or attendants of the preliminary event have attempted to alter the outcome of the event, the corresponding contestant will be disqualified.

**PRIZES:** One contestant will be chosen as the "2021 Heartland Idol" at the grand finale event and will receive \$1,000.00, and a professional recording session with the Brothers Walker from the Voice. Note that there is only one (1) grand prize to be awarded, no matter the number of performers in the act selected as the winner(s) of the grand prize. Winner(s) must claim their prize at Mississippi River Radio, 324 Broadway, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 63701 during regular business hours: Monday through Friday,

8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Prizes will not be mailed. Winners must provide a photo I.D. at the time the prize is claimed. If the winner is under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must be present to sign for them. Any prize not claimed within 30 days of notification is considered forfeit, and the winner(s) waive all rights to that prize. Any taxes, fees, gratuities, or otherwise that result from the prize are the sole responsibility of the winner and not of Mississippi River Radio or the contest's sponsors.

**LIKENESS RIGHTS:** All participants in the contest understand that by participating, they give implicit permission to Mississippi River Radio to utilize their name, voice, and/or likeness for promotional purposes without compensation, as well as recording phone calls or performances, etc.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Contestants understand that Mississippi River Radio, its stations, and all sponsors of the contest are in no way responsible for any injuries that may result, in whole or in part, from the contest or prizes awarded. The aforementioned entities (River Radio, etc.) are not responsible for equipment malfunction, failure, or sound difficulties that may occur during the contest. All rules are subject to change by Mississippi River Radio at any time during the contest. Any contact information provided by a contestant will remain with Mississippi River Radio and will not be given to any other entity with the exception of the winner's contact information provided to The Brothers Walker for recording session scheduling purposes.