



Presents



# SPOTLIGHT

## TEEN SINGING COMPETITION

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2024  
DENNISON THEATRE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA  
6:30 PM**

**Special Thanks to The Dennison Theatre, Trail 103.3, 104.5 The U, Young Mazda Missoula, Good Food Store, Title Services Inc., Missoula Public Library, Roemer's, Flaherty Financial Services, Inc., Parkside Credit Union, First Montana Bank, Montana Ace, The Roxy, MCAT, Blackfoot Communications, Missoulia, MissoulaEvents.net, ZACC**

*THANK YOU!*

*Heidi Starret, Aubrey Nilson, Zola Kell,  
Nathan Poukish*

*Spotlight Judges: Rachel Berger, Jadi  
Rae Curtis & Elin Peterson*

*Photography: Neil Chaput de Saintonge*

*Scan QR code  
to vote for the People's Pick!*





# SPOTLIGHT PERFORMERS



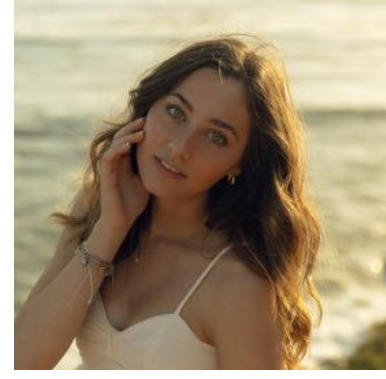
**Evelyn Callaghan**



**Sam Cavanaugh**



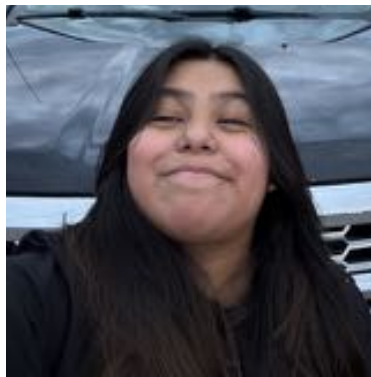
**Tessa Collard**



**Hailey DeRosa**



**Anna Fortune**



**Ismerai Sunem  
Ramos-Gómez**



**Lexi Johnson**



**Killian Kroenke**



**Harley Pohl Smith**



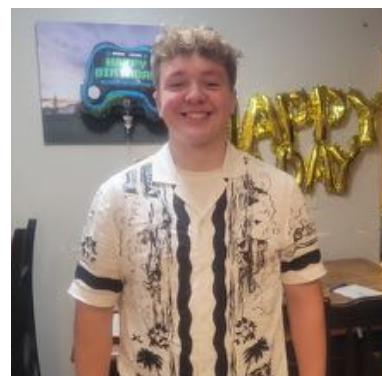
**Eleni Spaliatsos**



**Myla Spoon**



**Reed Stromberg**



**Jonathan Williams**

# SPOTLIGHT PERFORMERS

## **Sam Cavanaugh - Singing “Jam” an Original Song by Sam Cavanaugh - Accompanying Himself on Guitar**

Missoula native Sam is a singer, songwriter, and music producer known for his original Pop/Indie Rock songs, inspired by The Beatles, Queen, and Charlie Puth. Performing regularly for eight years, he also studies bass with Tommy Sciple. Influenced by Freddie Mercury, Sam’s style spans Jazz, Funk, Pop, and Rock. His debut album, *It's All a Good Time*, was released on June 9, 2024, and is available on Spotify, YouTube, and Apple Music.

## **Evelyn Callaghan - Singing “When Will My Life Begin” From Tangled**

Evelyn has been performing in musicals for as long as she can remember and has no plans to stop anytime soon. She has appeared in two community theater productions, *Matilda* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and performed in *Mean Girls* at Hellgate High School last spring. Evelyn is also part of the varsity choir at Hellgate, an experience she truly enjoys.

## **Tessa Collard - Singing “Man of the House” By Rachel Zegler - Accompanying Herself on Guitar**

Tessa has been performing since kindergarten, starting with kids' musicals at MCT and classical guitar recitals, which fostered her love for theater, music, and performance. She earned the "Outstanding Solo Performance" award at the Montana Thespian Convention and organized a concert at the ZACC called *Singing For The Snowbird Fund*, which raised \$1,500.

## **Hailey DeRosa - Singing “Slipping Through My Fingers” From Mamma Mia accompanied by Heidi Keita**

Hailey, a senior at Sentinel High School, is in her fourth and final year in choir as she prepares to graduate. With a passion for spreading joy through music, she’s been part of Spotlight at MCT for three years. A highlight of her musical journey came in 2023, when she performed at Carnegie Hall with WorldStrides’ honors choir, deepening her appreciation for music's impact. Recently, she began interning at The Vault Studios to expand her experience in music production. While planning to major in psychology, she also hopes to study music production to create music that empowers others. Additionally, Hailey has been working with Angela Dailey as her voice teacher for 8 years.

## **Anna Fortune - Singing “Cleaning My Room” an Original Song by Anna Fortune - Accompanying Herself on Piano**

Anna has been singing in front of audiences for many years, but she began taking consistent voice lessons about a year ago, performing at various vocal events since then. She also has experience singing with the Hellgate High School choir.

## **Ismerai Sunem Ramos-Gómez - Singing “Line Without a Hook” By Rickey Montgomery Accompanying Herself on Guitar**

Ismerai is a senior with a deep passion for music. She plays guitar and has been doing so for four years. She is also part of orchestra, where she plays the violin. This is her second year performing at this competition.

## **Lexi Johnson - Singing “The Wizard and I” From Wicked**

Lexi is a junior at Hellgate High School. She has been singing since before she could talk. Lexi currently sings in Hellgate’s Chamber Choir and Chevaliers. This fall, Lexi was selected for and performed with Montana’s All-State Choir. Lexi loves musical theater, and last year she played the role of Janis in Hellgate’s production of the musical “*Mean Girls*”. Lexi studies voice with teacher Angela Dailey.

## **Killian Kroenke - Singing “Your Song” by Elton John**

Killian has been performing on stage since he was six years old. He loves participating in theater and choir at Hellgate High School, as well as the PAC program through MCT. His passion is musical theater, and he plans to pursue it in college this fall.

# SPOTLIGHT PERFORMERS

## **Harley Pohl Smith - Singing "Can't Help Falling in Love" By Elvis Presley**

Harley Pohl Smith, a senior at Sentinel High School, is in her third and final year of the Spotlight competition. She's been performing since age five, starting with MCT's Children's Theater, and continues to pursue her passion through weekly voice lessons, 12 years of piano, and nine years of dance at Show Tyme Academy. Harley has competed in various music competitions, earning superior ratings at district and state festivals.

## **Reed Stromberg - Singing "Anyway" Composed by Reed Stromberg**

Reed is an eighth grader at Washington Middle School. She has been taking voice lessons with Elin Peterson for three years and performing at recitals and open mics in Missoula. Reed sings solos in the school choir and began writing songs a couple of years ago. The song she will perform, "Anyway," is her first recorded song, created with musician Jake Fleming in Bozeman.

## **Myla Spoon - Singing "I Love You I'm Sorry" by Gracie Abrams - Accompanying Herself on Guitar**

Myla is a junior at Hellgate High School where she is part of their choir and theatre programs and co-founded the Improv Club this year. For the last two years, Myla has studied voice with Angela Daily. Recently, she auditioned for and was accepted into the Broadway Evolved musical theatre intensive which she will attend this summer.

## **Jonathan Williams - Singing "Everything I Own" By Bread - Accompanying Himself on Guitar**

Jonathan has played guitar and sung in front of friends and family for about a year, with only one performance in front of non-family members.

## **Eleni Spaliatsos - Singing "My Days" From The Notebook: The Musical By Joy Woods**

Eleni, a senior at Hellgate High School, began singing at age three in church and now enjoys a wide range of music, from musical theater to classical. She sings in choir, plays clarinet in the wind ensemble, and serves as section leader in both. She has attended all-state band and choir, plays piano, and writes her own music. Grateful for her family and teachers, Eleni hopes to study musical theater or opera after graduation and continue sharing her passion for music with the community.

## **2023 Spotlight Winner: Olivia Marble**

### **No Place That Far By Sara Evans - Piano**

### **Hang Tight Honey by Lainey Wilson - Guitar**

Since Olivia won the Spotlight Competition in 2023, she's been advancing her career in music through a variety of performances. This year alone, Olivia has sang live on the radio; performed at various rodeos, including the nationally televised "Darby Xtreme Bareback Rodeo"; a Clare Dunn benefit concert; many private and school events; The Lincoln-Reagan Dinner; The Still Room; and she will be opening for Jaden Decker at the Rustic Hut on the 31st! Olivia continues to lead worship at her church, as well as her student led worship team. She has also written her first finished song! Olivia continues to stay busy with her various activities and music.



# Spotlight Judges & MC

## Jadi Rae Curtis



Jadi Rae Curtis is a formerly Nashville-based vocal coach who is so elated to be back home in her beloved hometown of Missoula. With a well-rounded background in Jazz, Classical, Theatre, and Commercial vocals, she enjoys the unique challenges of all genres. Jadi Rae originally left her beloved mountains to complete a Music Theatre degree with the prestigious Elon University. Upon graduation, she moved to Nashville, where she has written, recorded, and performed, and continues to do so. Eventually, she also fell in love with helping others to discover the unique and singular nature of their own voices. Jadi considers it a privilege and a joy to play a part in the pursuit of her students' goals and help them embrace that which makes them unique and memorable.

## Rachel Berger

As a native Missoulian, Rachel Berger is in awe of Missoula's flourishing artistic community in recent years. Through her directing, performance, and photography work, she strives to enhance and portray the spirit of our city and the people within it from a diverse, all inclusive, feminist lens. As the 2011 winner of Spotlight, she is honored to uplift the voices of the next generation of performers. She is beyond ecstatic to watch the young members of our community grow, thrive, develop, and embrace their talents.



## Elin Peterson

Elin Peterson grew up in a musical household in Missoula, MT. As the child of two working and teaching musicians, she often accompanied her parents to rehearsals, recitals, concerts, and many other musical events. Elin realized early on that music would be a huge part of her life. Holding a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Montana, she has performed as a soloist with symphonies, operas, jazz ensembles, choirs, and rock bands. Elin began her music teaching career in 2015 and found her passion. In 2016, she moved to the Seattle area to join the music leader team with Musically Minded, serving as a music educator for children ages birth to five. She also served as a sought-after music instructor for Voice in the Valley Music Studio (Maple Valley, WA) for four years. Elin has taught in a wide variety of settings preparing students for local and regional competitions, auditions, and solo performances. She has coordinated and directed local and regional musical



## MC- Aubrey Nilsen

Aubrey Nilsen has called Missoula home since 2012 – and couldn't ask for a more beautiful and community-minded place to live. As a pop music maven on 104.5 the U she loves connecting with listeners and her community, keeping them dancing and smiling playing today's hottest tracks. Hang out with her on the radio weekdays 10 till 6 on 104.5 the U Missoula's number one hit music channel.



PRESENTED BY



SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE  
DEC. 30TH - 31ST 2024

DEC. 31ST

TIME & VENUE	DENNISON THEATRE 12/30	THE ZACC	UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	MGT	HEADWATERS FOUNDATION	THE ELKS CLUB	JRPC	ROXY THEATER	TIME & VENUE	MISSOULA PUBLIC LIBRARY		
										LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 4
12 - 5 PM	Dec 30th Celtic Dragon Pipe & Highland Dancers Ticketed 4 - 4:45 PM	Skyscapes & Soundwaves Ticketed 12 - 1:30pm			Poetry w/ Clark Fork Prep & Missoula Writing Collaborative *Donation 12 - 1:30 pm	Class w/ Tango Connections Missoula *Donation 12 - 2 PM		Kung Fu Movies All Day! Tickets @ Roxy Box Office Noon - Midnight	12 - 1 PM	Makers Space Open Hours 12pm - 4pm	Art Box: Family Crafts 12pm - 4pm	The Rhythm Experience with Drum Brothers 12 - 1 pm
		Commit to Eccentricity Hosted By Taylor Stein	Missoula Symphony Ticketed 2 - 3 PM	Dance Showcase Ticketed 2 - 3:30 PM					1 - 2 PM	Absent Wilson Conspiracy 12:30-1:30 pm	ARTS MISSOULA BAKE SALE!!! LEVEL 1	Zero Waste Mosaic Home Resource 12-3pm
5 PM - Midnight	Dec 30th Spotlight Ticketed 6:30 - 8 PM	*Donation 3 - 4 PM	Gamelan Ticketed 4-5 PM		Bingo Bonanza \$2 a token 1 token=1 card Prizes!! 2:30 - 5:30PM Come anytime	Missoula Folklore Society Dance *Donation 4-6 PM			2 - 3 PM	MCAT		Tarot Card Reading 1-3:30pm
		Drum Brothers Ticketed 6:00 - 7:00 PM			Dance Showcase Ticketed 5:30- 7 PM			Luminaria Making W/ JRPC Free 5 - 7 PM		3 - 4:30 PM	Chutzpah 2-3 pm	Presentation: Buck Hitswithastick 2 -3pm
		Y2K New Years Drag Show Ticketed 10 - Midnight	Recovery Palooza Substance Free Moondance *Donation 7-Midnight		Midnight Ball with Ed Norton Big Band Ticketed at Elks Club 9 PM - Midnight, Doors 8:30pm	Quartet Caribe Ticketed 7- 8 PM				LIBRARY ACTIVITIES FREE! DONATIONS ACCEPTED	Turning the Wheel: Family Romp 3:30- 4:30pm	Big Sky Light 3:30 - 4:30 pm

\$17 Single ticket - (no additional fees)

\$35 All Access Pass - Includes all events except for the Y2K Drag Show @ The ZACC on Dec. 30th & 31st (no additional fees)

Kids 10 & under Free-subject to availability

\*\*\*Donation means at \$10 suggested donation at the door\*\*\* (All Access pass holders exempt)

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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YOUNG MAZDA  
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